

March, 24th, '76.
Mr. S. Walthers,

Dear sir,

I received yours of the 12th inst, and was very happy to hear from one whom I supposed you had forgotten after so long a period.

I am at present attending the Public school at Susan, taught by Prof Childs, who is a very intelligence man, and worthy of a position in a High school.

Spring is opening with all its charms, ad and the flowers are blooming, and sending forth their sweet fragrance into the air and perfume it with the most exquisite taste. Our school Journal is obtaining quite a circulation throug out the county, and in fact, we have sent a few copies to Washington, so if every thing goes well our extensive little sheet will rise into fame. The citizens of this place have put their heads together and are having the streets filled in with dirt which is by no means unreasonable. The Susan bank is in running business and is progressing rapidly.

Yours truly,
Geo. F. Elliot.

The Solano Historian



Solano Historian

The *Solano Historian* is published twice yearly at Vallejo, California, by the Solano County Historical Society.

Edited by

**Matthew and Lee Fountain
and Robert Allgood.**

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The purpose of the *Solano Historian* is to stimulate the enjoyment and preservation of history by publishing pictures, stories, articles, and letters furnished by its readers. Much valuable material that would flesh out our knowledge of the past is lost each year because those who might save it either do not realize its value or lack the motivation to take any immediate action. The *Solano Historian* will supply the motivation by showing there is an appreciative audience for such material and that people are intensely interested in items relating to their own background, that jog their memory, remind them of memorable events, and satisfy their curiosity.

Readers who furnish material for publication will find they are amply rewarded by their own feeling of satisfaction and the recognition earned by their contribution.

The *Solano Historian* is now soliciting material of Solano and North Bay interest for future issues. More details concerning this may be obtained by contacting President Sue Lemmon or Lee Fountain. Comments on this issue are also welcome.

The Society does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of statements or opinions of contributions although every effort is made to be historically correct.

Solano County Historical Society
P. O. Box 922, Vallejo, CA 94590



President's Message

Dear Members,

I am honored for having been elected president of this august historical society. In reviewing past accomplishments of this organization, I realize the many goals could not have reached fruition without the support of its members. As your president in the coming year, I ask for your continued support so that we may work together in the best interests of this county and its rich and varied history.

Our membership will be pleased to learn of the latest developments in the newly established Solano County Historical Records Commission. As you may know, the Records Commission had its start as a result of the History Roundtable whereby a group of dedicated people from all parts of this county came together with a common interest in the preservation of history. They came together to share in ideas on various ways to officially collect and document our heritage.

The Board of Supervisors has appointed the members to the Commission. The Commission's first tasks will be to determine what documents should be collected, where they are at present, and what storage space is required. There is a possibility of obtaining grants from several sources.

Something wonderful is on the horizon! We will need each and everyone of you. The Records Commission is an open forum and our members are invited to attend the monthly meetings. Perhaps you have something to contribute.

Our society is proud of the many people involved in accomplishing yet another goal. Thank you all!

Henry Higham

President 1988-89

Hail and Fairwell

The *Solano Historian* welcomes Henry Higham as the new president for 1988-89. Hank, as he is known to most members of the Society, has been a long-time member of the group and active in all its projects. He learned very much about the interior workings of SCHS while his wife, Mary, was president. He has been a delegate from Suisun, a great M.C. at several of our social events, and wagon master for the Spring Tour this year that took us to the Treasure Island Museum where we enjoyed an excellent tour by the curator and a movie of the 1939 Fair at the Island. The history of Goat Island and Yerba Buena was pleasantly presented by the young administrator who took advantage of our maritime knowledge and of our vintage perspective of the Fair.

We reluctantly say farewell to Sue Lemmon who has completed a very successful term in which we had board meetings at Suisun, Vacaville, Benicia, Vallejo, Rio Vista, Solano Community College, and Fairfield and general meetings at the Camel Barn, Vacaville Heritage Council, Rockville Chapel, Green Valley Country Club, Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, Vacaville Museum, Travis Air Force Base Museum, and Treasure Island-Oakland Museums. The Society participated in the preparation for and in the organization of the Historical Records Commission. An inventory of society artifacts is now underway and should be finished by the Annual Meeting.

About The Cover

The letter reproduced on the cover is from the composition book of George Elliot in which he practiced his Spencerian penmanship assignments. Although his penmanship is excellent, he has a few composition problems. His story is told in "*The Suisun Journal*" on page 10 of this issue. The composition book used in 1876 is in excellent condition.

Notice: In the last December issue of the *Solano Historian* we omitted acknowledging the source of its cover picture. It was supplied as a courtesy of Howell-North Books.

Granville Swift, California Pioneer

by M. Clyde Low

In a country cemetery on the northern edge of Rockville, a bypassed hamlet in the Suisun Valley of central Solano County, California, there is a small moldering headstone of a California pioneer. It can be located in plot 164 about fifty feet from the old stone chapel built in 1856. The inscription challenges the visitor with the words:

Granville Perry Swift, Captain California Battalion, Mounted Rifleman Mexican War. [Died] April 21, 1875. Born Lexington, Kentucky, May 1, 1821. Pioneer of California 1842 as hunter and trapper. Member of the Bear Flag Party at Sonoma, June 14, 1864.

At the top of the slab a Masonic emblem is incised. Manifest in these dates, place names, and momentous events was a life of vigorous participation in the western expansion of the American people. This essay will expand upon this capsule statement of his life and flesh out a portrait of this American frontiersman and California pioneer who found his final residence and resting place in Solano County. Facets of his life not alluded to in the engraved description will also be described. These will include less widely known aspects, such as his family origins in the American frontier experience in the eastern woodlands, which produced his inbred hatred of the Indian and which could have produced his reputed hostility to Mexicans as the contemporary foreign threat to American settlers. Lesser known events of his California career include his stabbing of an Indian in John Sutter's employ and his part in a brief forcible takeover of Sutter's fort; his involvement, if not responsibility, for the shooting of three unarmed Mexicans; and his exploitation of forced Indian labor in his gold mining venture. His financial losses in mining speculations and his failure in marriage afflicted the last decades of his life, which was cut short in its prime at approximately fifty-four years of age by a fall from a mountain trail while prospecting.

Granville Swift's Frontier Legacy

Granville Perry Swift was descended on both sides of his family from English and Welsh colonial stock, which for generations played active roles in military defense of American independence and its expanding westward settlement.¹ Swift's most illustrious ancestor was Daniel Boone (1734-1820), the first pathfinder of American frontier history. Daniel Boone was the brother of Swift's great, great grandmother Sarah. Granville's birth occurred in 1821 just one year after Boone's death.

Daniel Boone had blazed the Wilderness Road through the Appalachian ridges and into the Kentucky wilderness in 1769, and led the first American settlers, including his own family to the site to be called Boonesborough in 1775, the year of the declaration of American independence from Great Britain, which had prohibited such migration into Indian territory.

Boone's son as well as his sister Sara's husband were killed and Boone, himself, was once captured and narrowly escaped with his life in the repeated Shawnee Indian attacks on the American settlers.² Swift's mother, Rachel Walker, who was born in Boonesborough in 1794, married William Thomas Swift and bore Granville and eight sisters and brothers in nearby Lexington. The high mortality rate and the strain of motherhood on the frontier is evidenced in the deaths of three of these eight in their twenties, one at thirty, and his mother at forty-one years of age, one year after the birth of her last child.

When Granville Swift was three or four years old his family moved across the Mississippi River to the new state of Missouri, where Daniel Boone and his family had preceded them in 1799 when the Missouri area was Spanish territory. The land was acquired by the United States as part of the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. It was in Missouri near Boone's Lick that Swift followed in his ancestor's footsteps in learning and loving the ways of the hunter and the life of the outdoorsman which were to stand him in good stead in his later California exploits.

Granville Swift's First Year in California

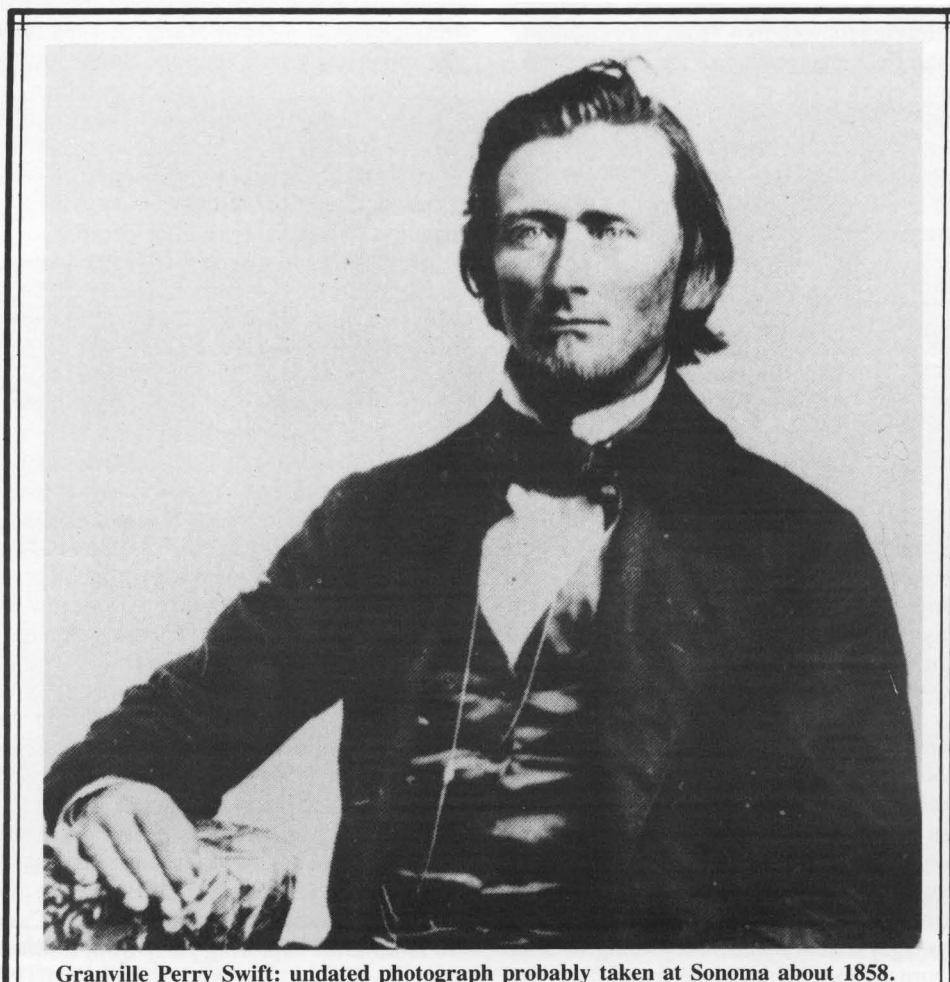
The earliest documented date for Granville Swift's arrival in California is 1844, when he

entered from Oregon in the so-called Kelsey party.³ A family oral tradition, however, derived from an account of his son William, relates that his father told him he came West with a party of trappers at nineteen years of age, which would have been 1840, and that he remembered hunting elk along the Sacramento River on his twenty-first birthday, which would have been May 1, 1842. The engraver of the headstone has memorialized this earlier date.

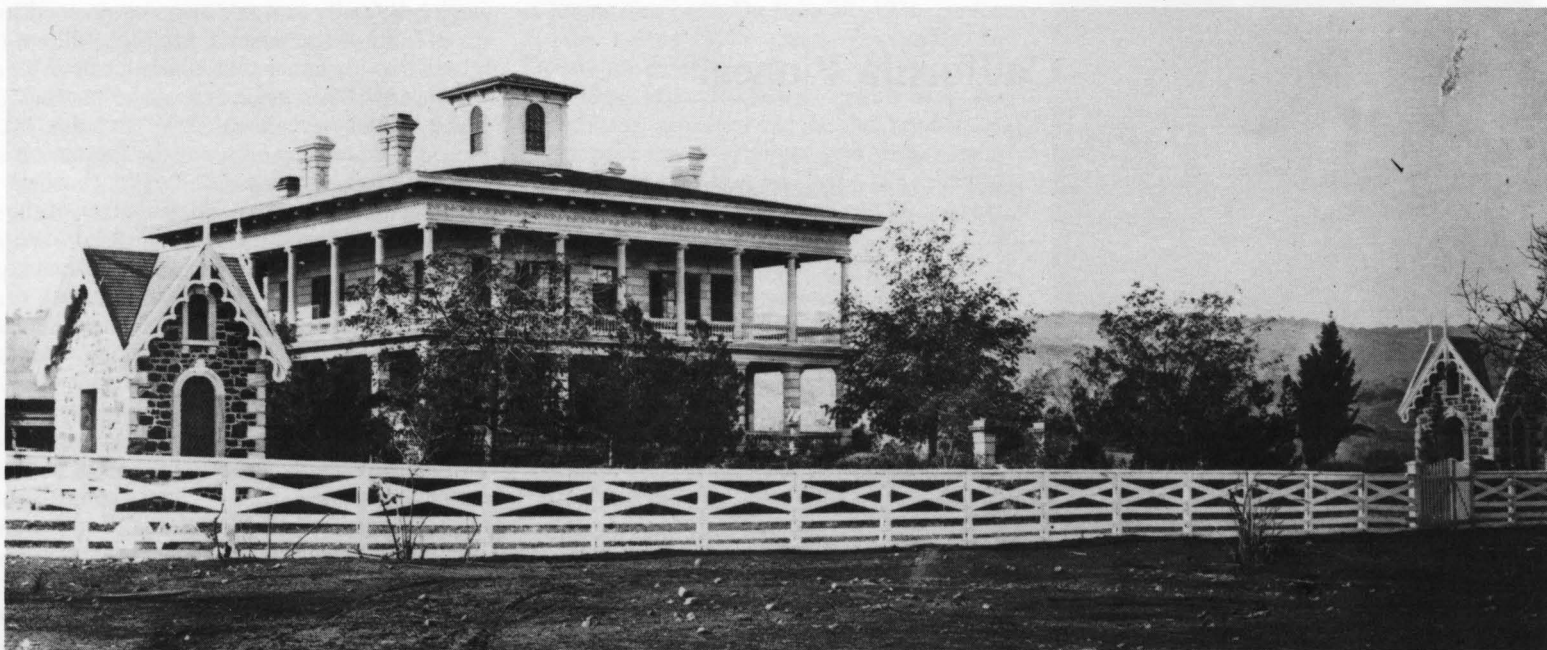
Swift spent the two years from the summer of 1844 to the spring of 1846 with a party of Americans hunting—and possibly trapping—in the Sacramento Valley and along Cache Creek for meat, hides, and, perhaps, furs to sell at Sutter's fort. His close associates in this hunting activity were his cousin Franklin Sears and a Henry L. Ford who later joined Swift in the Bear Flag episode and the military campaigns of the Mexican War in California. Ford's accounts of those events are a main source of information on Granville Swift's record.⁴

Granville Swift's Role During the Rebellion of the Californios, 1844-1845

In November 1844 a revolt of native Californians—or Californios—broke out against the Mexican governor of California, Micheltorena. The precipitating cause was the behavior of the soldiery which Micheltorena had brought with him from Mexico. The governor then called upon John Sutter, who was a captain in the Mexican army, to raise troops and help him suppress the revolt. Sutter successfully enlisted one hundred foreigners, mostly Americans, with the argument that the gover-



Granville Perry Swift: undated photograph probably taken at Sonoma about 1858.



Granville Swift's mansion called Temelec was built in Sonoma in 1858. This photograph was probably taken about 1863 while he owned the property.

nor favored their settlement in California, while the insurgents wanted their eviction. On January 1, 1845 the force, consisting of one hundred foreign mounted riflemen and one hundred members of Sutter's Indian military troop, set out in pursuit of the insurgents. At Mission San Buenaventura Swift and thirteen other foreigners were captured by the enemy. They were treated kindly, however, and after the true causes of the war were explained to them they were allowed to return to Sutter's camp. As a result of this new insight, Swift and forty-nine other foreigners withdrew from the campaign.

In the final engagement of the insurrection, a comic opera battle of cannons, in which the casualty was a horse, both Sutter and Micheltorena were ignominiously captured. The governor was forced to return to Mexico with his ex-convict soldiers and Sutter was released to struggle back to his fort on the American River.⁵

Granville Swift at Sutter's Fort in 1846

Defeated and shown to be a liar and a coward in his ready surrender in the 1845 campaign, Sutter was being increasingly challenged by the American settlers and transients, who numbered by this date over two hundred in the Sacramento area.

Incredibly, as early as January 1846 they were threatening his control of his fort. . . . Events in March revealed how powerless Sutter had become, even in his own fortress. During the previous month, there were several Indian runaways, and one of his servants broke into the stores to steal liquor. But the crisis came when three of his Indians reported that their blankets had been stolen, in the very compound of the fort. Recalled Sutter, "The boys told me that Ingleses must have done it." When Sutter established that the thieves were Granville P. Swift and Franklin Sears, the latter a braggart and notorious Indian-killer, he confronted and tried to lecture them. To his alarm, they insulted him, threatening to seize and burn the fort. With Bidwell away at the mo-

ment, Sutter had no one around upon whom he could really depend, aside from a clerk or two. Faced by the lawless Americans, Sutter was plain scared. He confessed later, "I was waiting every moment for a ball or knife. . . . We had not one man who spoke in our favor and the whole mob assembled before the house." Sutter had forgotten that his New Helvetia had become an American community, and he had dared to take the side of Indians against white men. Bidwell joined him, but had to hide with Sutter and a few loyal employees in his room throughout the night of March 5, 1846, while the rabble took over the fort. Sutter was virtually a prisoner. Swift stabbed an Indian, and one of his confederates threatened to cut Sutter's belly open. Bidwell managed to pacify the troublemakers with a plug of fine Cavendish tobacco. Deeply humiliated, Sutter made no mention of the affair in his logbook.⁶

Granville Swift's defiance of Sutter was also expressive of the American contempt for the Mexican authority of which John Sutter was an official part. Earlier precedents can be found in the trapper Jedediah Smith's repeated defiance of government orders to leave California in 1826 and again in 1827 on his second expedition. In the latter year another American trapper, James Pattie, refused to leave Mexican territory. In 1831 Abel Stearns, a pioneer American settler in Los Angeles, who had been banished by Governor Victoria in 1829, returned to join an insurrection to overthrow him. In 1840 Isaac Graham and his fellow foreigners were so contemptuous of Governor Alvarado, whom they had helped militarily win the governor's office in 1836, that Alvarado had them arrested and deported. The insurrection of Americans in Spanish Texas in 1836 was an example of American filibustering that both Mexicans and Americans in California were aware of. Ten years later, in the fateful spring of 1846 Captain John C. Fremont defied an order of the Mexican military commandant, Colonel Castro, to remove his exploring party from California and, instead, raised the American flag on

Hawk's (now Fremont's) Peak before slowly moving through northern California toward Oregon!

In the spring of 1846 Granville Perry Swift was with a group of mounted riflemen who precipitated the final defiance of Mexican authority by American settlers, later known as the Bear Flag Revolt.

Granville Swift in the Bear Flag Revolt

The insurrection famous in California history as the Bear flag Revolt had its beginning on June 10, 1846, when a small party of American settlers under Ezekiel Merritt, and including Robert Semple, Henry Ford, and Granville Swift, responding to rumors that the Mexican military commandant Jose Castro was planning to expel all foreigners, seized a herd of 170 horses being driven down the Sacramento Valley for use in Castro's militia. The "die was cast" for Granville and his fellow filibusters. There was now no turning back. With the knowledge that Fremont's military force had returned from Oregon and was encamped on the Feather River, and familiar with the fact that there were no longer any soldiers at the former military post of the Pueblo of Sonoma—even Colonel Vallejo was no longer on active duty, thirty-three armed Americans under Ezekiel Merritt descended on the sleeping town of Sonoma before dawn on Sunday morning, June 14, 1846.

In the raiding party with Granville were those he had known along the Sacramento: Ezekiel Merritt, William Todd, Samuel Kelsey, John Sears, Thomas Cowie, and Henry Fowler. Granville must have been with the restless and increasingly inebriate throng who waited several hours impatiently outside Vallejo's house while the group's leaders arranged for his capitulation to the insurgents.⁷

Swift did play an active role in the military organization and defense of the Bear Flag Republic. He shared with William Todd, Henry Ford, and Peter Storm the designing and making of the Bear Flag which was raised over

Sonoma on the first day. When Henry Ford was elected as first lieutenant in charge of the party, Granville Swift became its first sergeant. Swift's military prowess was evident to his associates as he helped Henry Ford organize a force of about eighteen of the Bear Flaggers to rescue missing party members captured by the Mexicans. A firsthand account by William Baldrige, who later served under Swift, describes his leadership qualities.

"...we all had great confidence in Swift, and thought him worth a dozen common men in fight, and consequently a good judge of fighting men and as all concerned were desirous that, if a fight should take place the work should be done in the most efficacious manner, so those requested withdrew and Swift filled their places with men of his own choosing."⁸

The expedition traced the Mexican forces to the Rancho Olompali north of San Rafael, where on June 24 it confronted the fifty-man force sent by Commandant Castro the previous day to retake Sonoma. Superior tactics and marksmanship drove the Mexican force off with casualties only on the Mexican's side. This skirmish, later called the "Battle of Olompali," was the only military action of the Bear Flag War. It secured Sonoma and the north bay area against Mexican counter attack. Two days later, on June 26, Fremont assumed command of the Bear Flaggers.

On July 5 he organized the California Battalion of Volunteers, and on July 9 raised the American flag at Sonoma in place of the Bear Flag. In the meantime, the United States had declared war on Mexico on May 13 and Commodore Sloat had landed at Monterey on July 7.

Granville Swift and the Killing of Three Californians

Having arrived at Sonoma and taken charge of the Bear Flaggers on June 26, Fremont proceeded to the San Rafael Mission with his troops on his way to raid Yerba Buena's fortifications. During his stopover at San Rafael an atrocity occurred which sullies the name of Granville Swift. Three unarmed, noncombatants of the pueblo of Yerba Buena had sailed across the bay on personal business. They were the elderly Don Jose R. Berryessa and two teenage De Haro brothers, Ramon and Francisco. As they walked from the beach to the mission, they were met by three soldiers from Fremont's force, including Kit Carson and Granville Swift, who at fifty yards dismounted and deliberately shot and killed them. Jasper O'Farrell, an eyewitness of the proceedings, stated later that when Kit Carson asked if he should take them prisoners, he was told by Fremont that he had "no room for prisoners."⁸

The only extenuating circumstance that could have been in the thinking of the executioners was the desire for revenge for the cruel murders a few days earlier by other Mexicans of two members of the Bear Flag party—Thomas Cowie and Henry Fowler, who had been captured in northern Sonoma while on a mission for the Bear Flag party.

Granville Swift in the California Battalion During the Conquest of California

On July 5, 1846, the "California Battalion of Volunteers" was organized at Sonoma under John C. Fremont. Its four companies consisted of one largely made up of Fremont's own exploring party and three others commanded by Henry Ford, John Grigsby and Granville Swift, who had been elected by the Bear Flag Party members. This 165-member force set out immediately for Sacramento and Monterey where it was incorporated in the United States forces as the "California Battalion of Mounted Riflemen" on July 23, 1846, with Fremont as major and Ford and Swift as captains of Companies B and C, respectively.

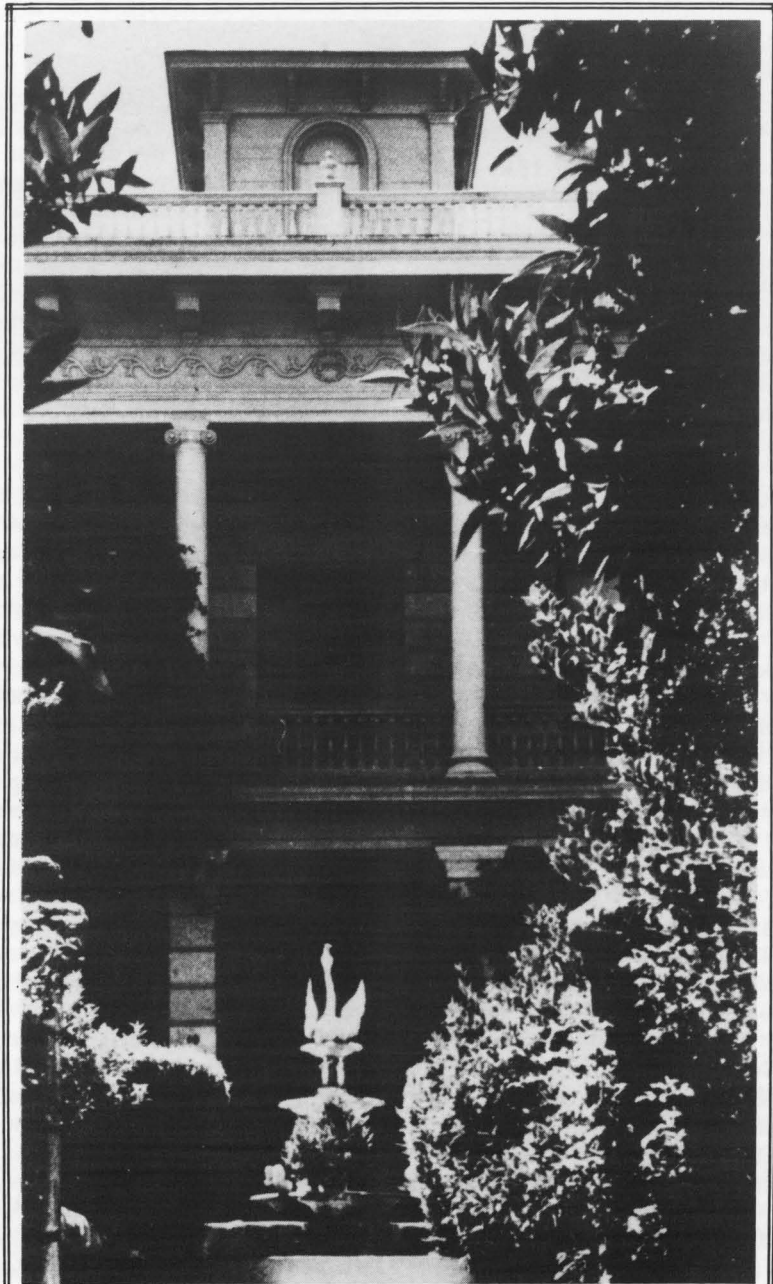
The battalion saw action from the beginning of the hostilities in the occupation of Los Angeles on August 17, 1846, until the surrender of the Mexican rebel force in California to Fremont at Cahuenga in the San Fernando Valley on January 13, 1847. Its men were discharged from United States service between January and April 19, 1847. The overall war with Mexico ended on February 3, 1848, with the Treaty of

Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ceded the upper Mexican territory, including California, to the United States.

Granville Swift, along with Henry Ford and a Samuel Gibson had the distinction of the longest continuous military service in the conquest of California, which began with the seizure of the Mexican government's horses at the Cosumnes River on June 10, 1846. Swift refused an appeal from Governor Mason on January 28, 1846, to him and Henry Ford to raise new companies for further service in Lower California. James Marshall had discovered gold at Sutter's sawmill four days earlier on January 24!

Granville Swift—Cattleman, 1847-1853

Mustered out of military service in the spring of 1847 with a bounty grant, Granville Swift settled at the confluence of Hambright and Stony Creeks in the Colusa area, near the present city of Orland in Glenn County. He built an adobe house and a stone corral (it is now registered California State Historical Landmark No. 238) for an extensive cattle ranching operation that would eventually reach as far south



This view of Temelec shows its fine detail and swan statue.



William Thomas Swift
Older son of Granville Swift.



Granville Perry Swift, Jr.
Younger son of Granville Swift.



Eliza Jane Tate who married
Granville Swift at Sonoma in 1858.

as present Woodland. In 1849 in partnership with his cousin, Franklin Sears, Swift bought the large herd of cattle and horses that Henry Ford and J.S. Williams had purchased from Vallejo's Petaluma rancho in 1847. He most likely used profits from his gold mining success for this purchase. Granville Swift was elected and served for one year as the first county treasurer when Colusa County was formed in September 1851.

Granville Swift—Goldminer 1848-1849

Swift and his fellow settlers of the upper Sacramento Valley, such as William C. Moon, whose ranch was a partnership with Henry Ford; A.G. Toomes, on Mill Creek, Job F. Dye, on Antelope Creek, R.H. Thomes, south of Elder Creek, were in an advantageous location for early access to the gold fields in the epochal spring of 1848. Henry Ford and John Bidwell describe Swift's goldmining activities as follows:

A gold hunting party consisting Toomes, Thomes, Swift, Samuel Gibson, Moon, James Meadows, and Dye was organized that spring on the upper Sacramento. An oxcart was loaded with tools, 48 Indian "volunteers" were obtained, and all set off for Feather River with 50 head of beef cattle. Rich diggings were found at Monterey Bar, afterward named Long's Bar. Six weeks of work yielded \$10,000 for each of the seven principals. Long's Bar is said to have had 4,000 diggers at one time.

John Bidwell tells of the continuation of mining that fall and winter by Swift, Gibson, and one Karr, assisted by impressed Indians. Says Bidwell:

"If the Indians did not bring in a sufficient amount of gold to suit them, they were whipped. The Indians would often try to escape but were always brought back by these men, and treated like slaves. Swift was one of the best prospectors I ever knew. It seems as if he could almost smell the gold. He made an immense amount of money. When these three men had worked all winter and fall, I believe they must have had some \$100,000 apiece and maybe more. Swift took up the business of stock and sheep raising. Some years later I went over to

his place, about twenty miles west of Colusa. I knew he had a great deal of money and wanted to borrow some. He asked me how much money I wanted and I told him. He said he could not let me have it; his gold was all buried and he wouldn't dig it up, but he had some \$10,000 of that "stuff they call coin." "I have no confidence in that and I would rather let you have that [coin], but the gold I would not dig up for my own father. That is money and I know it. . ."

Granville Swift's use, exploitation and cruelty to Indian laborers conformed to the general treatment of the Indian aborigines in California from the beginning of the Spanish missionary enterprise through the Mexican rancho and American periods of occupation of the land. Swift was likely no more oppressive than his contemporaries. James Clyman's account of the condition of Indian laborers in 1846 relates that

"The Indians or aborigines do all the drudgery and labour and are kept in a state of Slavery haveing no or Receiving no compensation for their labour except a scanty allowance of subsistence during the time they actually employed and perhaps a cotton Shirt and wool sufficient to make a course blanket." ¹⁰

He observed their condition on the Napa Rancho of Salvador Vallejo as follows:

"... he has also 300 working men with their usual proportion of Females and children all Kept in a nearly naked state and porrly fed and never paid a cent for their labour." ¹¹

Swift was not unique in using Indian labor in his mining activity. Governor Mason estimated that in 1848 more than half of the gold diggers in the California mines were Indians, often in a state of peonage similar to their status on the Mexican ranchos. ¹² Robert Heizer estimated that between 1850 and 1863 some 10,000 Indians may have been indentured or sold to whites. ¹³

With the profits from his successful goldmining venture of 1848-1849, Swift was able to extend his cattle operation as described above and later establish himself in the town and county of Sonoma as a wealthy ranchero and socialite.

Granville Swift at Sonoma 1854-1864

Granville Swift moved to Sonoma County in 1854, where with his brother William and his cousin Franklin Sears he purchased 15,000 acres of Vallejo's Petaluma Rancho stretching from Sears Point on San Pablo Bay to Lakeville. Sears was also Swift's brother-in-law, having married Swift's sister Margaret in 1851. In 1857 Swift purchased an additional 1,000 acre parcel close to Sonoma City, called Temelec, which came on the market when its owner, Swift's brother William, died. The Temelec ranch had been purchased from Vallejo in 1850 by General Persifer Smith who made Sonoma his headquarters in 1849 when he commanded the Pacific division of the United States Army in California. William had apparently bought it with money lent by Granville for he owed the latter \$34,859.88 at the time of his death. ¹⁴

It was at Temelec that Swift proceeded to rebury his gold hoard, as he had been described doing earlier at the Colusa ranch. He wrote a list, dated May 10, 1857, of the seven bottles, two "Stoan jugs," and one tin box with one "little bottle" which he had buried. He estimated the total value to be \$100,000. ¹⁵

The decade at Sonoma was the high point in Granville Perry Swift's career. Now, in his early thirties, he was famous as one of the heroic Bear Flag Party and as a veteran of the war to annex California to the United States. He was a man of wealth rivalling the estates of General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo and Colonel Agoston Haraszthy. ¹⁶ He must have appeared as shown in the studio portrait reproduced here, with piercing eyes in a leonine head on an erect muscular frame, six foot, one inch tall.

Here in Sonoma on June 19, 1858, Granville Perry Swift laid the cornerstone of what was to be the finest mansion in the Sonoma area. To celebrate the occasion he invited the families of the Sonoma gentry, including that of General Vallejo, whom he, as a rustic frontiersman, had helped make a captive only twelve years before! His mansion would be three stories high, built of quarried basalt with white limestone quoins. It would be surrounded in southern antebellum style, with an encircling balcony on three sides,

2 BOTTLES in one hoal ESTIMATE 50000
 2 BOTTLES in one other hoal \$100000
 3 BOTTLES in one other hoal
 2 STON Jugs in one other hoal
 1 TIN BOX & 1 Little Bottle Both in the same hoal amount
 in tin box & bottle is about \$20000

Above is Swift's list of his gold hoard buried at Temelec. On its back is the admonition "Bee Shoar That yo understand they contents of this, May 10the, 1857" See letter on left for another example of his handwriting.



Mary "Polly" Smith (Mrs. Frederick Jones)
 Sister of Granville Swift

Dear Sir
 I am Bern April 17 1857
 John Cornwall Esq
 Dear Sir
 owing to my being a way
 from home I did not receive
 your note of March 20th
 untill yesterday the amount
 is all right and I will have
 the munny for you in a few
 days
 yours Truly
 G. P. Swift

supported by great stone Doric columns. Over the front entrance would be inscribed "G.P. Swift 1858." The estate included a great stone barn in the same style, but with romanesque arches over the doors, two Victorian period gazebos, a circular pool with a swan sculpture fountain and a large stone reservoir holding 480,000 gallons of water.

The interior space afforded fourteen rooms on the first two floors, with four fireplaces. The long dining room had a large fireplace of imported Italian marble and could accommodate as many as fifty guests. Estimates of the cost of this mansion have ranged from \$140,000-\$250,000.

Swift operated his mansion and ranch with at least a hired man and his wife, with their two grown sons and two single men assisted by four Indian girls, ages eight to fifteen years, as house servants, and nine Indian boys and young men, ages eleven to twenty-two years, as herders of his livestock.¹⁷ Swift is reported to have brought Indians with him from Sacramento Valley. Their young age and absence of parents suggests that they may have been originally kid-

napped.¹⁸

Lillian Wilson in *Temelec Hall Saga* describes an even more extensive presence of Indian labor as follows,¹⁹

"He [Swift] farmed the land and grazed his cattle, again using Indians as herders and laborers. There were many Indians and they lived with their families in wigwams and huts located in a settlement west of Temelec Hall on the creek near the present dam site. Oldtimers refer to the settlement as 'the reservation.'"

Whether these "rancheria" Indians are remnants of Indian workers of Vallejo's Petaluma Rancho or workers brought along with Swift is not determinable from the available record, but it would appear that they were separate from the above-mentioned Indians listed in the 1860 census as part of the Swift household.

The culminating event in Granville Swift's fulfillment of his potentiality at Sonoma was his marriage to Eliza Jane Tate on September 1, 1858. She was 16 years old and he, 34. She was the daughter of Thomas H. and America Boles Tate of Sonoma City, in whose house

Granville had been boarding. In the following six years Granville and Eliza Jane maintained an active social life at Temelec, with guests from San Francisco and from the gentry of Sonoma County. On May 14, 1859, Granville Swift was initiated into the Masonic Lodge. Their three children were born at Temelec: William Thomas in 1859, Granville Perry, Junior, in 1861, and George Harvey, who lived but fourteen months, in 1863.

These halcyon days came shortly to an abrupt end due to serious financial losses that Swift had incurred on investments in mines and mills of Virginia City in Washoe County, Nevada. By September 1863 Swift was forced to sell most of his share in the 15,000-acre ranch to pay his debts. In November of that year the Temelec ranch was sold as well. Swift and Eliza Jane left Sonoma to start a new life in Solano County, settling in Green Valley in November 1864.²⁰

Granville Swift in Green Valley 1864-1875

Despite his financial losses, Granville Swift retained 1,000 acres of his Sonoma land, valued



Former home of Granville Swift in Green Valley in 1895. Granville Swift's sister Mary is on the left. With her are her son Frederick Jones, Jr., his wife, Addie, and her grandson Sidney Jones.

with improvements from \$3,000 to \$17,800 on different assessment rolls. This he put in trust for his sons. He was able to get possession of the 130-acre homestead farm of James Harbin in Green Valley with its imposing stone mansion in November 1864. This was done through a foreclosure sale to reclaim an interest in the property which he had acquired some years before.²¹

The ranch that Swift acquired and made his home in 1864 is the present Green Valley Country Club property. The stone mansion is in use as the clubhouse.

The Solano County Tax Assessment Roll of 1866-1867 lists the value of Swift's land and personal property in Green Valley at \$4,084.00. In the roll of 1866-1867 it is described as "Swift's Rancho" and his total assets were entered as \$3,540. These figures were most likely kept lower than real values to limit tax liability. A more accurate measure of his wealth during his Green Valley sojourn may be the entry in the U.S. Census of Solano County for 1870—enumerated on June 29 of that year—which lists "Granville Swift, age 49, Vine Grower," with a land value of \$10,000 and personal property worth \$8,500. With him were listed Eliza Jane as his wife, "Keeping House," and his two surviving sons William, age 10 and Granville, Jr., age 9, "At Home."

This was the last time the family would be listed together, for Eliza Jane had already filed for divorce on August 28, 1869, and was awarded it on April 23, 1870. The property value entered for Swift is also dubious, because he had deeded the property to his sister Mary

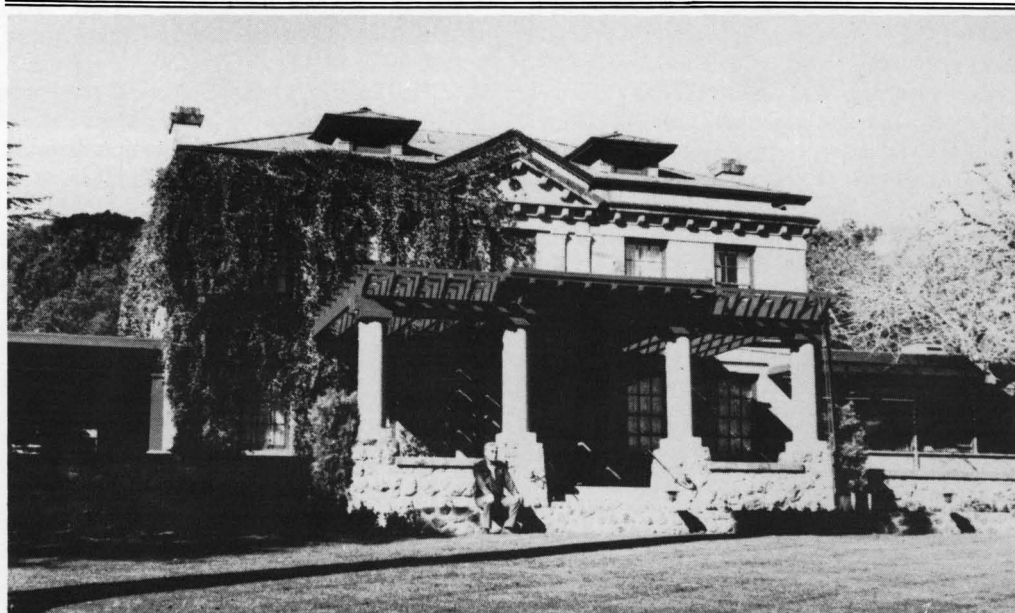
(called "Polly") on November 14, 1868. Whether this action was taken because he owed his sister money, or because he feared creditors, or because he saw the possibility of a marital breakup at that time remains an enigma. Curiously, even though Granville specified that he was giving the property to his sister Mary, as her personal possession under California law, the tax assessment roll for 1870-1871 lists the 162 acres "Known as Swift's Place" as owned by her husband Frederick S. Jones! Eliza is said to have sued unsuccessfully in court to have the

deed to Mary set aside. She left Solano County for San Francisco, where on August 25, 1871, she married a Colonel Henry Casebolt. She received custody of the two boys in San Francisco. The boys fled back to Green Valley when Henry Casebolt struck William and whipped Granville, Jr. They resided thereafter with their Aunt Polly, Mrs. Frederick Jones. In suits in Solano County Probate Court, Eliza Jane, now Mrs. Jane Casebolt, successfully got Granville Swift and later, Frederick Jones, removed from guardianship of the boys' estate. She also got a court order for Frederick Jones as agent of Granville Swift to pay to her the money received in rent from the 1,000-acre property in Sonoma that Granville had deeded to his minor children. This was to reimburse her for the \$2,750 expenditure she made to maintain the boys while in her custody between August 1870 and January 1874.²²

Among the documents in the probate folder supplied by Granville Swift as evidence of his expenditure for support of his son William are a bill and receipt showing payment to St. Augustine's College, an elite military Academy in Benicia for young men run by the American Episcopal church, for "incidental" expenses incurred by William in the fall term of 1874. There is also a payment receipt for the spring term as well.

Granville Swift—Quicksilver Miner and Final Days

It is probable that Swift, after having divested himself of his Green Valley property by his deed to his sister in 1868 and having been abandoned by his wife the following year, most likely spend much of his final years in Napa county prospecting for quicksilver in the mountains between Berryessa Valley and Knoxville. He had acquired some 2,000 acres of mining claims in the area just below the hotel and stage stop at a sulphur springs called Zem Zem. He was riding on a mule to visit a quicksilver mine in that region when he suffered a fatal fall from a steep mountain path on April 21, 1875. It was a violent end to a man who had known and sur-



The same home with improvements is now the Green Valley Country Club.

Benicia, Cal., *Nov. 18th* 1875

Capt G. O. Swift

To College of Saint Augustine, Dr.

For Tuition, Board, Washing, etc., of Son *William J. Swift*
 for *Term* ending *Dec. 24th 1874* \$ *175.*

" Incidentals, (to be accounted for)	<i>22.35</i>
" Pocket Money, " " "	<i>3</i>
" Modern Languages, viz:	
" Music, viz:	
Balance Forward, term	<i>2.50</i>
Charge: <i>S. Liquid</i>	<i>17.</i>
Credit: <i>Aug 3.</i>	<i>115.</i>
<i>Nov 28.</i>	<i>87.50</i>
<i>" 23</i>	<i>20.</i>
Received Payment, <i>239.50</i>	<i>202.89</i>
	<i>36.61</i>
	<i>87.50</i>
	<i>20.</i>
	<i>\$ 239.50</i>

E. Madhock
Treasurer.

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

Cubery & Co. Printers, 536 Market Street, S. F.

Statement of payments received by St. Augustine's College for Granville Swift's older son's tuition and board.

vived physical hardships and violent encounters at many points in his career. Just four days prior to his death he had written a letter to a creditor from Zem Zem promising payment "in a few days." The letter was found in his probate file and is reproduced here as an example of his writing for comparison with that of his gold cache list cited above; and as evidence of his ability to read and write, refuting allegations to the contrary. It also raises the question: was the "home" he refers to Green Valley or the mountain station of Zem Zem?

It is very doubtful that Swift found material success in this mining enterprise of his last years, but his son, William Thomas, as described in this biographical sketch in the year 1900, appears to have received from him a substantial inheritance:

"William Thomas Swift, owner of the celebrated Zem Zem ranch, containing 1,260 acres, of which 100 are in cultivation in hay for his stock. Mineral indications of quicksilver are found on the stock ranch, also sulphur and salt springs. Mr. Swift is also a stockholder in the Rocky Creek quicksilver mine which is said to be one of the most promising prospects in the state and expects to be operated in full force this fall of

1901. Lives in Berryessa Valley."²³

William Thomas died in Napa County in 1941. His brother Granville Perry, Jr. died on February 8, 1942, also in Napa. Their mother Eliza Jane died as Mrs. Casebolt in December 1888.

Epilogue

One characteristic of Granville Perry Swift that deserves a note is a quality of kindness and generosity that was apparently also characteristic of the culture from which he came. Frank Leach, who arrived in California in 1852 and came to Napa City in the spring of 1857 describes the quality of the Missouri folk as follows:

In the early '50s a very large number of the people living in town as well as those engaged in farming in the valley were people who had come across the plains from the State of Missouri. By their mannerisms and peculiarity of speech they were almost as distinguishable from other Eastern people as were those of Spanish decent. As a rule they were a whole-souled, generous class whose doors were always open to strangers and friends alike. The adventures, trials, and hardships experienced by these people in

crossing the plains, beset with Indians bent on murder and plunder, and here and there murderous whites, gave them something of a heroic character in my youthful eyes. They too, like the Spanish descendants, have disappeared as a class.

Death has removed the older generation and time has eliminated all distinguishable characteristics of the descendants.²⁴

Lillian Wilson reports an encomium from a friend who had known Granville from boyhood as published in a Sonoma newspaper:

"He was a loveable fellow. I knew him well during prosperity and adversity, and all his life he was never known to turn his back on his old friends who were poor. He had, however, too large a heart to retain his own vast wealth, and through much generosity and misplaced confidence, much of his possessions were taken from him. About this he grieved not, but set about regaining them with energy and honest toil. It is a pity that the biography of such a man as Swift was not written during his life, so that the public might know to whom they were indebted for services of untold value."²⁵

THE SUISUN SCHOOL JOURNAL.

VOL. 1.

SUISUN CITY, CALIFORNIA, SEPTEMBER, 1876.

NO. 11.

The quotations in this article appear as originally published. No corrections have been made to spelling, punctuation, or sentence structure, although some weird inadvertent typographical marks have been omitted.

by Lee Fountain

In elegant Spencerian script, the name of Geo. W. T. Elliot is written on the top of each of seventeen issues of *The Suisun School Journal*, precious artifacts in the Solano County Historical Society collection. These publications, an experiment on the part of C.W. Childs, school teacher and administrator, were printed from 1876—1879 at least and reveal much of the daily life of Suisun residents and certainly many of the attitudes and activities of their journalistically inclined juveniles. Some fine old Suisun family names appear repeatedly in the various departments of the paper—Barbour, Gillespie, Lambie, Dinkenspiel, Devlin, Loomis, and especially Elliot.

In addition to school activities, the papers include a column "Brevities" which chronicles some social activities, civic endeavors, summaries of temperance lectures, crop and weather conditions, and even borrowed facts from encyclopedias and almanacs that are obvious "fillers." Teen-age humor appears as frequently as the editorial admonitions concerning school taxes and impassable roads.

In the early issues, merchants of Suisun City were welcome supporters of the school paper by advertising, and professional men listed their business cards which came quite close to being advertisements. It is obvious from comments throughout the papers that the students assumed their paper circulated widely in the community and was a rival to the *Solano Republican*. One article condemns the *Republican* for not speaking out concerning the need for a public reading room even though many residents including the Good Templars lodge members had been holding planning meetings concerning the problem. And in another article it calls the paper to account for saying Suisun high school boys carry guns to school, a fact vehemently denied by the school editor.

A Mistake.

Our contemporary, the *Solano Republican*, came out two weeks ago with an astounding report in reference to our school. In speaking of our larger boys it said: "We understand that several of these boys constantly carry little derringers in their pockets on the streets, at home, in school, and out of school." We know this to be untrue, because our largest boys have no pistols to carry.

Besides it has been a standing rule of the Board of School Trustees during the last four years, that firearms should neither be allowed on the school-ground, nor in the school-house. We think if our brother editor would inform himself more accurately, before speaking with such confidence, it would rebound to his advantage. You wonder that Mr. Childs allows firearms to be brought on the school-grounds. Well, your whole article seems to be mere speculation and wonder. Mr. Childs certainly does prohibit the carrying of firearms anywhere on the school premises.

The student editor Ira Parker writes of the widespread circulation by quoting the *Winters Advocate* which describes the *Suisun School Journal* as "a spicy sheet and as its views of educational matters are in accord with ours, we wish for it an ample meed of success. A printing office attached to an educational institution is confessedly a more valuable adjunct to a thorough knowledge of composition, punctuation, ect., than any other that could be adopted."

The front page of the *Journal* cites the subscription rate as \$1.00 a year, 75 cents for six months, and 10 cents for one copy. Although it considered itself a monthly publication, small notices in several different issues indicate problems with the presses or the budget that may account for a few missing issues.

The statistical facts and editorial comments seem somewhat less intriguing and informative, however, than the personal histories that emerge if one looks. Because Geo. W. T. Elliot so carefully endorsed each of the issues in the collection, it seemed prudent to see if his name appeared anywhere in the *School Journal*. Part of each edition was the publishing of the grades of each student; so it was not difficult to find that information about George. All the school and all of Suisun City could read that he had grades of 100, 91, 101[sic], 100, 96, 100, 89, 100, and 100 in the nine different issues in which his name appeared. That 101 must have been the student typesetter's error. The grades of fifty-two students were listed one month but other months there were fewer. What the number or grade actually means, one cannot be certain. It could be attendance or deportment; or more likely it refers to academic grades, although the presence of so many 100's and high 90's seems somewhat unrealistic. Whatever it meant, young George appeared as

a top achiever. A comment found at the end of the following article sheds a bit more light on Elliot.

Our Contributors.

The *School Journal* for the ensuing year will appear under the editorial management of Miss Nellie Breck and Calvin Webster, with Ira S. Parker as general manager.

We have secured the services of many talented writers; we give them a hearty introduction to the public, and hope that they may succeed in pleasing and edifying our numerous readers.

The poetical department will be in charge of Archie Burns, and Misses Essie Smith and Nellie Barbour.

Our historical sketches will be written by such eminent biographers as Ritchie Cannon, James Menzies, Willie Kennedy, and Misses Bessie Cairns and Sadie Clinton.

Our fireside productions will be from the pens of the following well known writers; Misses Alice Monroe, Clara Gillespie, Mary Ellsworth, Emma Breck, and Bessie Lambie.

Our locals will be prepared by Eddie Dinkenspiel and Bryant Wilson, and our comic corner will be filled by George Elliot, the greatest comic writer of the age.

One wonders if these small jokes at the end of a column in the October 1876 issue can be evidence of young Elliot's great comic skill.

"Why is Mr. Child's head like the Polar regions? Because it's a great bare place."

"All men are not homeless, but some are home less than others."

The kindly hand of a faculty supervisor seems to be evident, but it certainly is not an overbearing one. Typical juvenile jokes appear regularly. Poems written by students appear in almost every issue most of which would never find another publisher.

Eulogy on Suisun

(There are fifteen verses, but four should illustrate the point. One can almost hear the giggles of the versifier as he angles for rhyme and rhythm.)

How beautiful the scenery around this little town;

How pleasant are its people as they throng around!

But I scarcely admire the Wisdom of its sire,

For its situation is in a bottomless mire.

However, as it is, we think our school very good,
But could make it much better, if people only would
Come forth with assistance, provide of their bounty,
And help make this school the best in the County.

And then our saloons we had better not forget,
Which furnish easy places for lazy men to S-E-T.
To get men in, they play various kinds of roots
and often put them out with "snakes in their boots."

One thing we lack which we could surely make;
That is, a railroad from Suisun to Lower Lake.
Can we not take hold of this scheme one and all
And have a way to travel by the coming Fall.

In addition to following George Elliot through the pages, it was easy to pick up the trail of Luella Gillespie. She had her school reports of 100, 95, 94, 93, 96, and 100 in six consecutive monthly publications. (There were Guilford, Jennie, and Clara Gillespie also in these reports). In these same papers, February through June, Luella was listed as "Editress." Her grades and her responsible job as editress suggest a very capable girl. Her name, however, is missing from the August paper, but there is the following notice:

Teachers' Examination

The County Board of Examinations will meet at the school house in Suisun, Sept. 6th, 1876.

In September under "What Some of Our Pupils are Doing" one finds that Luella had not only received a first grade teaching certificate but that she was teaching in Napa. Yet a month later, the *Journal* reports "Miss Lu Gillespie is at home again. She has just closed a successful term of school in Napa County." Undoubtedly this was a momentous year for "Lu"—high school graduation, teachers' examination, and a job all in three months.

The *Journal* reported in detail not only what its recent graduates had done but also what they were doing. Frequently personal comments were included in the factual citations but in the following quotation the personal asides are eliminated.

Calvin Webster is teaching in Gomer district, where Lily Pressley formerly taught. Miss Spiller is in Toland district, and Miss Jennie Lemon has charge of the Primary department in Fairfield School. Frank Merrill, we understand, is wielding the rod successfully in Lagoon Valley, and Miss Addie Daniels is "teaching the young ideas how to shoot" in Willow Spring district. Miss Lizzie Ferguson will soon take charge of the school in Canright district.

Four of our pupils are attending the State University at Berkely; Frank Whitby,

William Blythe, Nathan Frank and Moses Frank. . . Misses Carrie Hooke and Belle Richardson, former pupils of this school are very successful music teachers; both have large classes.

Frank Trainor has been attending Heald's Business College, where he graduated a few weeks ago. . . Edgar Wilson has also been attending the Business College but came home for a vacation. We understand that he intends to returning to the College soon. . . Sumner Merrill is clerking for J. Frank & Co. . . Eddie Whitby is studying medicine at Dr. Stockmon's. . . We shall give an account of others next issue.

Another name that is easy to follow and one that became very important to Solano schools is that of Calvin Webster, mentioned at the start of the above article. He became County Superintendent of Schools and while in that position he realized that no history of Solano schools had been or was being kept. Subsequently he took on that responsibility and compiled the only record recounting the establishment of early schools, their districts, and their personnel. It remains a primary source of information today.

In his small volume *The Educational History of Solano County*, Mr. Webster does a creditable job of gathering information of early superintendents, teacher examinations and requirements, the development of school districts, and the responsibilities of the Board of Education. Before he did all this, though, he had his early grade school education in Petaluma and Suisun where during his high school at Suisun his grades were published in the *Journal*. He appears to have been an excellent student, earning grades in the high 90's and even some 100's.

He was born July 8, 1859, in Suisun where his father had settled after returning from the gold mines in 1852. When only thirteen, Calvin was injured in a gun accident in which he lost his right arm. One profession open to a young man in this situation was teaching so young Calvin sought assistance from Mr. C. W. Childs, principal of Suisun High School, who helped him obtain a teaching certificate.

At an early age he began his teaching career in Mountain District in Solano County. He taught "successfully during 10 years in Mountain, Gomer, Esmeralda, Tremont, Salem, Curry, Suisun, and Fairfield School District." If the dates reported by Mr. Webster in his *Educational History of Solano County* are correct, he started teaching at fifteen, but he returned to Mr. Childs' school between assignments or during the winter months when the isolated schools were not in session. During the year he was seventeen his name appears as Calvin Webster on the Report List with a grade of 100. He reappears in January 1877 as C.B. Webster with a grade of 90. A year later he left public school teaching. He became a mathematics instructor at the Dixon Academy.

In 1882 when he was twenty-three years old he was elected County Superintendent of Schools on the Republican ticket, a post he held for twelve years.

In his book on Solano schools, the young superintendent modestly wrote about himself at



Report of Suisun High School for the month ending Sept. 8th. '76.

Hattie Burns.....97	Lottie Perine.....89.
Nellie Breck.....90.	Bessie Cairns.....90.
Nellie Barbour.....90.	Alice Monroe.....96.
Archy Burns.....95.	Willie Roberts.....74.
Ida Morris.....90.	Clara Gillespie.....90.
Eddie Dinkelspiel.....92.	Leslie Chrisler.....74.
Richie Cannon.....80.	Emma Breck.....94.
Jennie Gillespie.....93.	Willie Kennedy.....95.
Bessie Lambie.....94.	Willie Connolly.....92.
George Elliot.....96.	John Edwards.....82.
George Kennedy.....80.	Frank Devlin.....94.
Essie Smith.....98.	Mary Ellsworth.....94.
Ira Parker.....98.	Bryant Wilson.....84.
John Webster.....82.	Ora Whitley.....89.
Mattie Sanders.....74.	Elna Dunn.....90.
Guilford Gillespie.....90.	Horace Crocker.....98.
Thos. Connolly.....90.	Chas. Oneil.....96.
Geo. Kinloch.....78.	May. Stockman.....89.



the teachers' institute, "C.B. Webster read an interesting paper on Popular education that elicited warm commendations from all present. This was generally considered one of the ablest papers before the Institute." No other participant was given such an enthusiastic evaluation.

In addition to following the progress of a few students, it is also possible to learn about the teacher and principal Mr. C.W. Childs. His name appears in almost every column of the *Journal*; sometimes he is quoted; sometimes he appears as the butt of a joke; other times there is a simple recounting of his activities. Regardless of the content of the item printed, the student writers convey a feeling of respect and affection for the "professor."

Our School Paper

It is with pride and pleasure that we present to our readers the first number of volume two of the school *Journal*. We commenced the publication of a school paper with many misgivings. Many persons said that a public school of one hundred and fifty pupils in a little town like Suisun, could not successfully conduct a paper. Some of the patrons of the public school thought that the work of printing a paper would interfere greatly with the regular duties of the school room. But in spite of all obstacles, our Principal bought a press and type, and we undertook to learn the "art of printing." We know that our printing press has been of great benefit to our school, not only in giving our school a wider reputation, but in aiding materially in the education of the pupils. In fact, we have gone so far as to take the press out of the hands of the Principal and place it entirely under the management of the pupils. Following the example of our school, several other public schools have established papers, and now, there are four public school papers in this State. Our paper has been self-sustaining, but much of our revenue has been derived from advertisements. Our subscription list is not so long as it ought to be; and we ask our friends to assist us at once, by sending a dollar for a year's subscription.

The Suisun School Journal.

PUBLISHED BY THE

Pupils Of Suisun High School.

M. J. PATTON,

General Manager.

IRA S. PARKER.....Editor.
NELLIE BRECK.....Editress.

**Publication Office, Suisun School House,
2nd. Story.**

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to their care.

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Another article emphasizes the benefits derived from a practical vocational course. Many times throughout the *Journal*, similar ideas are repeated.

Printing Presses.

There is no apparatus in schools more beneficial than a printing press.

We all know how necessary it is to read, write, and spell correctly, and though we study all this in our text books they never impress it upon our minds so clearly as the Printing Press does, where it is applied practically; after once learning it there, it will not so readily be forgotten.

Many very well educated persons know very little about punctuation. There is no better way to learn this important art than to set type.

Very few pupils like to write compositions which are to be criticized, corrected, and then laid away as so much waste paper.

If pupils are allowed to set their thoughts in type after writing them, they will soon like to write compositions; and thus there will be a steady improvement in this most important art.

No large public school should be without a printing press.

Mr. Childs purchased a printing press and type about six months ago, and now many pupils in the highest department can set type rapidly and accurately, and no one grumbles about composition writing.

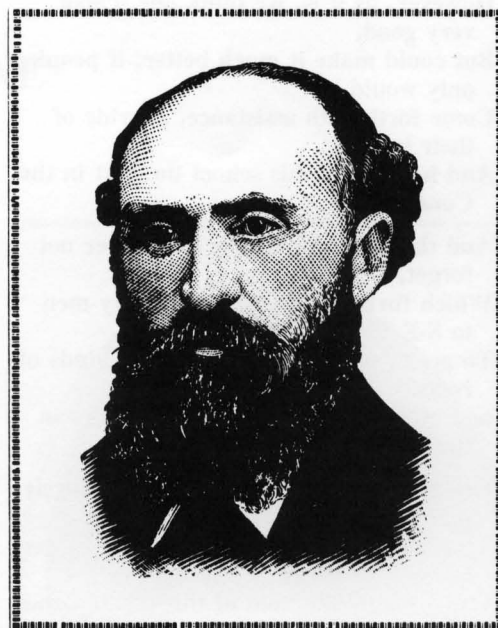
The printing press was not the only innovation of Mr. Childs. He was also interested in telegraphy and we read in one issue:

Telegraphing.

"The Suisun School Telegraph Company have their apparatus again in good running order. This line never tells any lies, and consequently, we shall soon know who is to be our next President." (In 1876 Rutherford Hayes was elected.)

The guiding hand of a faculty advisor appears evident by the number of articles on the art of teaching, on the importance of school manners, on the value of temperance, and the significance of school and liquor taxes. However, the local news columns report on the parties, weddings, trips, and health of both students and townspeople. Obituaries of prominent citizens are included in the school news. Mild sarcasm and humor as well as parodies, jingles, and verse of a sort reveal the teen-agers work. Short stories and small parables gave the creative students an opportunity to see their work in print.

The success of Mr. Childs innovative experiment to teach students a practical skill was recognized by the community and certainly by Calvin Webster who later in his book says "The fame of Mr. Childs, as teacher, had reached the trustees of the Suisun Schools who were searching for a man of ability to redeem their schools from their demoralized condition. Mr. Childs was engaged. He held this position for nine long years and by his energy and ability the school was elevated to a High School from which went forth many young men who are now



C.W. Childs

engaged as teachers, lawyers, doctors and successful mechanics and business men. By his efforts the school was well equipped with apparatus, and among other things not especially in the curriculum of a public school he taught the pupils type-setting and telegraphy, both as an accomplishment and for recreation. He was nominated and elected to the office of County Superintendent of Schools of Solano County for two successive terms by large majorities. Capable, energetic, progressive, and enthusiastic, his administration was a marked success, and as a sequence of well-earned honors at the close of his term of office in 1877, Mr. Childs was elected to the position of teacher in the State Normal School [San Jose State Normal School], and of which he is now Vice-Principal."

Agreeing with Mr. Webster's evaluation of C.W. Childs, the student writer of the following column includes both approbation and humor.

Former Pupils.

Since Mr. Childs took charge of our school, eight years ago, many who were in the primary grades at that time, have grown up and left the school. Some went away with a good common school education, and others who would not work were crowded out by ambitious pupils.

As several were mentioned in a former article, I shall refer to those omitted by the biographer. Willie Kennedy has just graduated from "Heald's Business College." We think that Willie will probably found a business college in Suisun for indigent young men.

James Menzies is studying for the Ministry. He took a course at Heald's College in order to become thoroughly acquainted with political economy. Economy of any kind is generally an important subject for ministers to study. Perhaps Suisun will give James a call when he gets his diploma.

Frank Merrill tried school teaching a

while, but not liking the business, he went to the "State University" to study surveying, navigation ect. Frank is good at figures and he will undoubtedly "cut a figure" in the mathematical world.

Moses Frank went to the State University but finding the atmosphere rather too hazy for his health, he came home without giving the faculty time to make out his diploma. Moses is now boss of a big clothing establishment on front street, Suisun.

Leslie Christler went to Sacramento and learned the foundry business in two weeks. He is now foreman in J. W. Kerns' big tin store. Geo. Kinlock is foreman for Neils Anderson. He has a fine one-horse chaise and appears to enjoy riding around town. More anon.

A final touch of a pupil's attitude toward Principal Childs comes in a note in the "Brevities."

Mr. Childs' family went to El Dorado County on a visit some time ago, and left him boss of the culinary department. We called the other day and found our worthy teacher engaged in examining his library of cook books, in order to ascertain whether slap-jacks are made of bran or oat meal. He says that he is getting along nicely, although he doesn't always get the proper per centage of salt, pepper, mustard and other condiments in his biscuit. He thinks he will get the exact formula soon, as he has brought his algebra to bear on the subject.

Obvious assignments given to the young journalists were to write about their own home areas, village, or valley—hence the essays on Montezuma, Bridgeport, and Suisun. The simple approach used by the young people expresses a reality and sympathy no Chamber of Commerce or public relations expert could ever convey.

A Letter From Montezuma.

Montezuma, Feb. 20th, '77

Editors Journal

Having perused with great interest the last issue of your paper, the thought occurred to me that a few words from Montezuma would not be unwelcome.

Grain in this section of country looks fine and the farmers are well pleased with the prospect of unusually good crops.

A great many improvements are being made but the greatest is the planting, by nearly every farmer, of the Eucalyptus or gum tree, which in this soil, grows very rapidly; in a short time we will have just what is needed to make this one of the most delightful places in this County namely, a small forest on nearly every farm.

A little over a year ago, as you all know, our little Church was destroyed by fire. Now we have, standing over its ashes, a larger and much better one, with the debt of the old one liquidated and this one nearly so. We all hope to see it entirely out of debt in a few months. Our minister Rev. J. N. Crawford is now absent on a visit to friends and relatives in the East, but he expects to return about the first of April. Although our regular minister is absent, we still have services every Sabbath by Rev. R. H. Barkway, who kindly fills his place.

Our public school will open in about three or four weeks for an eight month's term. We are greatly in need of a new school-house and hoped to be able to build one, but after being obliged to rebuild our Church the community felt that it had been taxed as much as it could bear. Still, if we have a good season and crops do well, we may hope to have one yet. In conclusion, let me say that we wish your school and paper abundant success and prosperity.

Montezuma

An Assignment From Bridgeport
Bridgeport, Nov. 28th, '77.

Editor *School Journal*: I receive your interesting paper regularly, but I do not see anything in it about Bridgeport. I, therefore, send you a few lines, hastily penned.

Bridgeport is in the south-western part of Solano County, about fifteen miles from Vallejo. It is at the foot of a ridge of high hills which separate Green valley from Suisun Valley. A good road leads into Bridgeport from each valley, consequently, a great deal of grain and fruit are shipped from this place.

Bridgeport is so called because of the long bridge near the town. Its post-office name is Cordelia, but very few people know it by that name.

Our people are not in the best of humor at present, owing to the fact that the R.R. Company concluded to build the railroad through the tule to Benicia; instead of passing round by Bridgeport.

Coal has been discovered in our vicinity, and if it proves to be a large bed, we shall not care much about your railroad, for we shall have a branch line to Benicia. We shall then control the shipment of fruit and grain as formerly.

Hunting is carried on quite extensively in the tule region near our town. The numerous ponds and sloughs are the resort of millions of ducks and geese, and many hunters throng the place during the winter months.

Ora.

A Report About Suisun Valley
Suisun Valley.

This beautiful valley is about eight miles long, and from five to six miles in width. It contains fifty square miles, of the best farming land in the state. The soil is deep and fertile, being composed of alluvial washings from the mountains. There will be a time, not far distant, when portions of the tule land, which lies along its southern side, will be reclaimed. Before a survey was made for the new railroad, the tule between this place and Benicia, was supposed to be almost bottomless. It was thought impossible to strike a solid foundation, to hold the piles, but it was found that there is a gravel bed not far below the surface.

Suisun valley has a delightful climate, being protected from the raw west wind by a high range of hills. The soil produces a great variety of grain and vegetable, but wheat is the principal production. Some of the farms have been sown with wheat every year for twenty years. Such reckless farming will wear out any soil.

The Suisun Public School.

WILL RECEIVE PUPILS FROM ABROAD, AT THE FOLLOWING RATES:

High School Department, \$4.00 Per Month;
Intermediate Department, \$3.00 Per Month;
Primary Department, \$2.50 Per Month.

This school is well supplied with apparatus, of the latest and most approved pattern.

BOARD AND LODGING CAN BE OBTAINED IN PRIVATE FAMILIES.

We are prepared to give instruction in the following branches:

**Geometry, Algebra, Arithmetic,
Rhetoric, Composition, Grammar,
History, Geography, Philosophy,
Physiology, Drawing, Music,
Book-Keeping, Writing, Elocution,
Orthography, Word Analysis, Latin,
Printing and Telegraphing.**

There were but few people in this valley prior to 1850. An *embarkadero* was established at the head of Suisun slough, for the purpose of shipping the products of this valley and the surrounding country. This landing soon had a store; some residences were built and the place was named Suisun City. Capt. Wing and John Owen were the original locators of the island on which the town was built. A post office was established in 1856, and J.B. Lemon was appointed post master.

Most articles and verse are signed by single initials only or by names like Mustang Pounder, Nicodemus, Elite, Observer, Longfellow, Jr. Pedagogue, sketcher, and occasionally by a student's first name. For example, Ora, who signed the letter from Bridgeport, is almost certainly the Ora Whitly appearing in several lists of student grades.

However C.B.W. signs his articles boldly letting every one know Calvin Webster was in the Debating Society and more than willing to write the affirmative argument for "Resolved—that a dramatic society would be more important to this Town, than a Debating Society." It took him many columns.

The frequency of articles and comments about manners indicate that someone was seriously interested in the deportment of Suisun youth. Some assignments were quite sober denunciations of boys who ignored curfew, who used tobacco, or who just hung around. This notice had the appearance of a polite nudge to a problem which may plague all school grounds even today.

Notice

We have noticed on several occasions, large boys (young men) not connected with our school, roving around our premises while school is in session, much to the annoyance of teachers and pupils. We now give them a gentle hint, not to do so any more, as it is entirely disrespectful and unmanly to come around and peer into the windows, as has been frequently done. If we notice any more of this after a gentle reminder, we will report their cases to the Board of Trustees, who, after due investigation of the same, will, if found necessary, strictly enforce Section "1868" of the Political Code.

In one article that could have been written by Miss Manners on politeness there is one jarring sentence dropped among the pleasantries: "To be polite we must treat our inferiors with respect as well as our superiors." In another instructional paragraph on Sociability the author says: "If we compare the sociability of the peoples of California with that of the Eastern States, we find that the people of the Eastern States are much more sociable and take a greater interest in each other than the people out here. . . . If we had long, cold, winter evenings as they have in the East, we might be more sociable."

Hoodlumism

The following, from the *Sacramento Union*, is so truthful and so applicable to many parents in this town, that we publish it, hoping that some may see the error of their ways:

We have no hesitation in asserting that the criminal laxity of parental discipline is the most fruitful source of hoodlumism. The modern methods of bringing up children are only calculated to corrupt and ruin them. From early infancy they are taught that their own caprice is the supreme law of their existence. They are not trained to feel, or to show the slightest reverence or respect for their parents. They are not taught to exercise the slightest self-denial. No effort is made to teach them that they owe duties to any living creature. A false and utterly pernicious spirit of independence is fostered in them. Their natural brutal selfishness and disregard for the feelings of others is actually applauded as evidencing their frankness and boldness. They are brought up to believe that these odious traits are the proper characteristics of an American citizen, and all their lives they learn but one home lesson of any consequence, and that is to take care of themselves, no matter who suffers. It is no wonder, when parents act with such incredible folly, that their children should become hoodlums; in truth, it would be hard for them to be anything better. The child that has been raised in selfishness; from whom all reverence has been carefully eliminated; who does not know what self-denial or self-sacrifice means; who has learned that brutality, impertinence, grossness of behavior, are manly and independent, and charming, must, indeed, possess very uncommon natural virtues if he turns out to be anything but a cold-hearted, selfish, vicious young ruffian, and a ready-made candidate for the penitentiary and the gallows. When American parents relearn the old educational scheme which their fathers and mothers knew and practiced, there will be some prospect of the decline of hoodlumism; but not until then. The children who are not trained to obedience, reverence, self-denial, charity, and self-respect, cannot be expected to reflect credit either upon their parents or their state; but it is the parents who are responsible for hoodlumism, and it is impossible for teachers and others who are interested in the welfare of children to correct this great evil, until parents shall awaken to a sense of their moral responsibility and adopt a better system of discipline at home.

Then the hoodlum will ease to exist.

Among all the little sermons, serious instructions, and didactic editorials that appear in the *Journal*, a little ray of hope is suggested in this:

A Receipt for Happiness.

It is simple! When you rise in the morning, form the resolution to make the day a happy one to a fellow creature. It is easily done. A cast off garment to the one that needs it; a kind word to the sorrowful; an encouraging expression to the striving inebriate—trifles in themselves light as air—will do it at least for twenty-four hours. And if you are young, depend upon it, it will tell when you are old; rest assured it will help you gently and happily down the stream of time to eternity.

One wonders how comforting this could be to an teen-ager in 1877.

The most urgent articles appearing repeatedly are pleas for education in general but in the Suisun Public Schools in particular. Many are quite similar in subject matter to contemporary concerns. The following appeal probably came from Mr. Childs or one of his confederates. There is an underlying feeling that the school is desperately trying to keep its reputation.

The Suisun School Journal.

The "School Journal" was established to encourage our children in original composition; to give them a more thorough knowledge of spelling, punctuation, use of capitals &c; and to afford those who wish it an opportunity to learn the art of printing. It is a step toward a more practical training. As such, it must commend itself to every true friend of youth; for it furnishes work for both head and hands, and at the same time connects our school with the great world outside. We have demonstrated the fact that a newspaper can be successfully conducted by a public school. Parents and friends, will you put your shoulders to this enterprise and give it a new impulse by doubling our subscription list; you and your children reap the principal benefits. The subscription at present, does not pay the cost of printing. The press and type has cost Mr. Childs about \$275, and all that he asks is, that the receipts shall pay current expenses.

Suisun Public School.

The next term of the Suisun Public School will open July 10th. Parents desiring to send to this school should apply at once to the Trustees. Our course of study embraces the following branches: Reading, Spelling, Penmanship, Word Analysis, Grammar, Geography, History, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Physiology, Philosophy, Book-keeping, Drawing, Music, Latin, Printing and Telegraphing.

It is our intention to improve our course of instruction, and elevate the standard of graduation, until our school shall become known throughout the County for the finished as well as practical education which it imparts to its pupils. The time has come for a higher and more complete education for everyday life; and our school will strike out boldly in that direction.

Public Schools

In this issue we mention the names of many

of the former pupils of The Suisun public school. . . . Those who have gone out as teachers are meeting with good success in this county. They come in close competition with College, Normal and High school graduates from different parts of the State and not unfrequently pass better examinations before the County Board of Examiners, and seem to have no trouble in securing the best positions and holding them. It is claimed there is no public school in the State, that is better prepared to give a more thorough practical and business education to its graduates and yet there are parents who at times talk of sending their daughters away to some Seminary or private boarding school in order, as they say to *graduate* after having received that *high toned polish* which it is claimed these institutions *only* are capable of giving. We fail to see the consistency. Think it would be much better to keep them at home, under the influence and training of the parent where they can have an opportunity of attending a *good* public school and by doing so be imbued with a little more of that essential element, *good common-sense* which in due time would ripen into that *self-propelling-power* which is so essential to their success through life.

All pupils who are in the graduating class of '79 will receive appropriate diplomas.

School Papers.

We have sent several copies of our school paper to Sacramento teachers, and, judging from the following, their news-paper faculties have become excited.

The *Sacramento Record-Union* of March 28th says, "W.H. Crowell asked the Board of Education to aid in publishing a semi-monthly paper. The Board to furnish him \$100 to purchase part of the material and \$20 per month to the close of the term. The Board to select the editor, and their advertising to be free. At the close of the term the Board, if it wishes, to take the paper. He said the Principals of the schools had approved the idea of a school paper, such as the Eastern departments have. He believed he could make it self-sustaining by the end of the term."

Our paper is the only paper in this State printed in a public school. We did not get aid from the Board of Trustees. Our school gave an exhibition and made enough money to furnish the publishing room, and Mr. Childs bought the press and type at an expense of about \$200.

Our receipts from advertisements and subscriptions fully pay our current expenses; and the stimulus given to composition writing meets the expectation of our teacher in every respect. If our Sacramento friends cannot get aid from the Board, do as we did, and run a press of your own.

Patronize Home Institutions.

Many persons living in the vicinity of Suisun, send their children to Oakland, Benicia, and Napa to be educated. Now, we have demonstrated that pupils can be advanced as rapidly in this school as in the schools of the towns mentioned. We send pupils to the State University and to the

Senior Class of the Normal school; and many of our graduates are successful teachers.

We have a large, well ventilated school house, and more apparatus than any other school in the County. Our town is healthy and board can be had at reasonable rates. Tuition is cheap, and books can be purchased at San Francisco prices. Your children will not be entirely away from home influence, and besides, they will not be subjected while at school, to the temptations which abound in large towns.

Mr. Childs used the importance of good penmanship as a selling point in the *Journal* for pupils to attend his school, sometimes subtly, sometimes blatantly.

A Good Handwriting.—Many a fortunate man will attribute his success in life to the acquisition of a good business style of writing. In fact, there is no other one accomplishment which will as surely prove that stepping stone as this. A young man should consider himself amply rewarded for a full year's application in the possession of a good hand writing.

The following correspondence shows the advantages of attending a good writing school in early youth.

[From H. Greely to M.B. Castle.]

Dear Sir: I am overworked and growing old. I shall be 60 next Feb. 3. On the whole, it seems I must decline to lecture henceforth except in this Immediate vicinity, if I do at all. I cannot promise to visit Illinois on that errand—certainly not now. Yours,

HORACE GREELY

SANDWICH. ILL. May, 12. HORACE GREELY, New York *Tribune*.—Dear Sir: Your acceptance to lecture before our Association next winter came to hand this morning. Your penmanship not being the plainest, it took some time to translate it, but we succeeded, and would say your time—"3d" of Feb."—and terms—"60"—are entirely satisfactory. As you suggest we may be able to get you other engagements in this immediate vicinity; if so, we will advise you.

Yours respectfully, M.B. CASTLE.

N.B. Particular attention is given to penmanship in the "Suisun Public School".

Young George Elliot's composition book in which he practiced his penmanship lessons is another treasure in the Historical Society's collection. In addition to perfecting his handwriting, he shows his keen perception by his flattering comments about his instructor. A later practise sheet reveals the emphasis put on education by a teacher, undoubtedly Mr. Childs.

A private school added an unusual touching dimension to education in Suisun in those troubled 1870's by an advertisement in the *Journal*.

Notice.

A school for the "Education" of the "Chinese", opened on Monday Evening, Oct. 1st., 1878, at the residence of T.W. Chamberlain on Main St. Mrs. T.W. Chamberlain, Teacher.

A slightly sophisticated reporter who writes under the pseudonym "Elite" submits a tongue-in-cheek response to the editor's earlier request for a resident preacher.

Suisun, May 1st. 1876

Mr. Editor; In your last issue some one informed the public that Suisun has no resident preacher. We do want a preacher but we are somewhat fastidious and a common sort of man will not suit us.

Our minister must possess all the Christian graces, and a few worldly ones; must have such tact and disposition as will enable him to side with all the vestry; must be socially inclined and of dignified manners; affable to all, neither running after the wealthy nor turning his back upon the poor; a man of High Low church tendencies preferred; must be willing to preach first-class sermons and do first-class work at second-class compensation; salary should not be so much of an object as the desire to be a zealous laborer in the vineyard; should be able to convince all that they are miserable sinners without giving offense; each sermon must be short but complete in itself—full of old-fashioned theology in modern dress—deep, but popular, and free from the eloquence peculiar to newly-graduated theologians; should be young enough to be enthusiastic, but possess the judgment of one of riper years. He only, who possesses the above qualifications need apply. To such a one will be given steady employment for a term of years. For further information apply to any member of the congregation. Elite.

The influence of the Good Templars and their mission on the part of temperance appears in almost every issue. The following poem centered in the middle of the front page of a 1879 issue was probably a popular song of the time.

Don't Drink To-night.

I left my mother at the door,
My sister by her side.
They clasped their hands and loving looks
Forbade their doubts to hide.
I left, and went with comrades gay,
When the moon brought out her light,
and my loving mother whispered me,
Don't drink my boy, to-night.

Long years have rolled away since then,
My jetty curls are gray,
But oh! Those words are with me yet,
And will not pass away.
I see my mother's loving face,
With goodness radiant light,
And hear her words right in my ears,
Don't drink, my boy, to-night.

My mother is now resting sweet,
In the graveyard on the hill;
But her kind words come back to me
And haunt my memory still;
I've often, often passed the cup,
Oh, then my heart was right;
Because I've heard the warning words,
Don't drink my boy, to-night.

Perkins & Hoyt,

ARE NOW SELLING, FOR CASH,

GROCERIES,

PROVISIONS,

QUEENSWARE,

Etc., Etc.,

At Cheaper Rates than Ever Before,

AND will deliver goods to their customers in Suisun and Fairfield *Free of charge!* and will pay the highest market price, in cash, for Poultry, Butter, Eggs and other produce.

N. B. A Handsome and Gentlemanly Clerk, kept especially to wait on the ladies, will give prompt attention to all orders.

James A. Barclay,

WATCHMAKER & JEWELER,

MAIN ST., SUISUN.

Keeps constantly on hand a fine assortment of Ladies' and Gentlemen's.

Gold & Silver Watches,

Jewelry of the latest style,

Silver & Silver-plated Ware,

Clocks, Chronometers, &c.,

A large assortment of

CENTENNIAL GOODS

will be received on or about July 1st.

WATCHES & JEWELRY REPAIRED & WARRANTED

C. A. Gibson's.

SHAVING SALOON.

in ROBERT'S HOTEL on

MAIN STREET, SUISUN.

SHAVING,

HAIR DRESSING

HAIR CUTTING,

SHAMPOOING, ETC, ETC.,

in the latest and most fashionable style of the art.

Comfortable Bathing Rooms are attached to the shop, where customers may obtain

REFRESHING BATHS!

For fifty cents each, and at all hours of the day.

Thankful for past favors he asks a continuance of patronage from the public.

W. T. Kennedy,

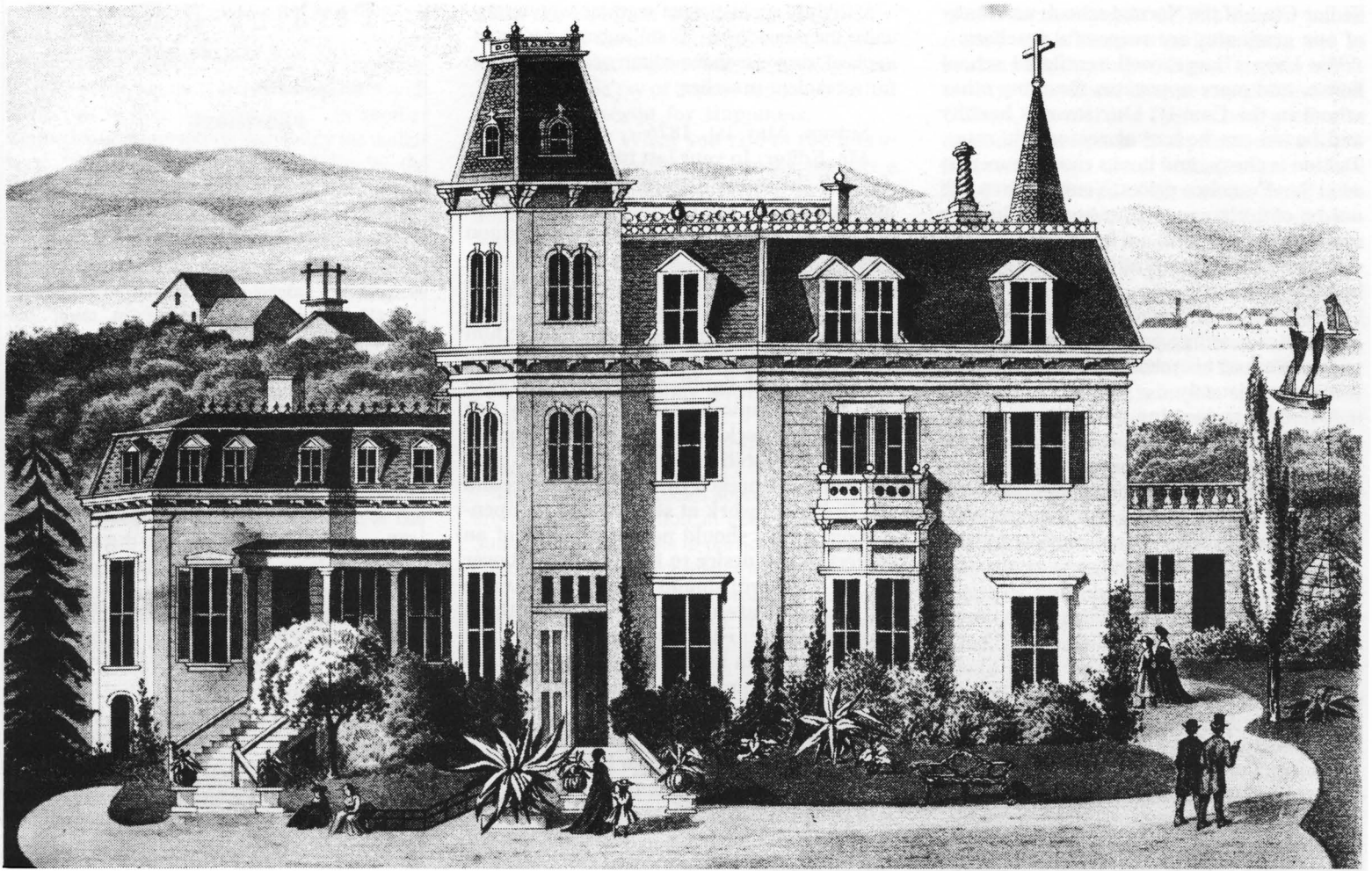
DEALER IN

CONFECTIONARY, TOYS,

WINES, LIQUOR,

CIGARS, TOBACCO,

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.



St. Mary of the Pacific, Benicia, California.

I've now passed down the road of life,
And soon my race is run;
A mothers warning listened to,
An immortal crown is won.
Oh, mothers, with your humble smiles,
Look on your boy so bright.
And say, as you alone can say,
Don't drink, my boy, to-night.

These words will prove a warning, when
In the thorny path of life,
The boy is in the tempter's wiles,
And warring in the strife.
They will stop the morning cup,
And revelry at night,
By whispering back a mother's voice,
Don't drink, my boy, to-night.

Many issues of the *Suisun School Journal* are missing from our Historical Society files. February 1876 is the first copy and that is Vol 1, -5. The last issue on hand is February 1879, which is Vol 4, -4. Between these dates it is obvious that there has been a significant change in orientation and in execution of the publication. The early issues are labeled "Published by Suisun High School, C.W. Childs, General Manager." The address is Publication Office, Suisun School House, 2nd Story. By November 1876 the publisher becomes Pupils of Suisun Public School with Ira Parker, a previous editor, as general manager. No mention is made of Suisun High School but the 2nd Story address remains. By 1877 the address changes to simply Public School Buiding. Sometime during 1877 the banner is simplified, the size of the *Journal* becomes smaller, and the quality

of the paper is poorer. Sadly, most of the advertisements have disappeared and the grades recorded are labeled "Intermediate Department." Much of the material included refers to primary students as contrasted to earlier issues when subject matter was geared to high school students, some of whom were already working professionally part-time. Instead of articles about adults in the community, for example weddings or funerals of well-known citizens, there is this typical social item:

A Birthday Party.

The Fourteenth Aniversary of the birth of Miss Maud Pearce was celebrated on Wednesday Evening, Oct. 2d, 1878, at the residence of Mrs. Hooke, by some of Miss Maud's most intimate friends.

Among those present we noticed; Ladies, Misses, Ora Whitley, Jennie Gillespie, Mae Stockman, Yetta Frank, Fannie Milliken, Minnie Chrisler, Ida Morris, Bella Morris, Clara Smith, and Mrs. O.R. Cogldan. Gentlemen, Byrant Wilson, John Edwards, Willie Robers, Eddie Dinklespiel, Walter Roberts, Leslie Chrisler, Eddie Whitby, Mose Frank, George Kinloh, George Kennedy, Mr. John Pearce, father of Mis Maud, and Mr. Samuel B. Saunders.

The evening passed away very quietly and was enjoyed by all present, untill about half past ten the supper call was sounded through the hall and each young gent that was lucky enough to get one marched out to the table,

with a young lady to support him.

When we arrived in the supper room, we beheld a sumptuous repast, waiting for the knives and forks which were immediately procured, and the table and its contents were most mercifully slaughtered.

After every one had eaten their fill, we all adjourned to the parlor and several of the young folks enjoyed themselves in a lively waltz.

At twelve o'clock the young folks, seeming to have enjoyed themselves enough for one evening, began to disperse to their various homes, to think and dream over the jolly good time that they had just had at the party.

Miss Maud is quite a promising young lady and we hope that all her youthful birthdays may pass as happily away as the one just ended.

Nicodemus.

By the end of 1877 Mr. Childs had moved on to San Jose and perhaps Mr. Sutphen, the new principal, found other things to emphasize. The new county superintendent J.K. Bateman may have given the high school and the press less support.

In one of the last issues the inside sheets are printed upside down.

A significant date that ends this experiment in vocational education is a brief announcement in the *Solano Republican* that Armijo High School was started in 1891 in Suisun.

So much for a noble experiment!

ARISTOCRACY IN ASHES

by Charlene Erwin

Before her death in 1981, Charlene Erwin, lifetime resident of Benicia and career teacher in Vallejo, wrote a series of articles about her favorite historical people and institutions of the earliest settlement in Solano County. We are reprinting a series of these sketches because of the charm and spirit of writing. The first sketch appeared in the May 1987 issue of the Solano Historian.

Devastating fires in Benicia have usually wrought tragedies; an end of a financial endeavor, a cultural era, or a family dynasty. One tremendous fire, however, was uniquely different.

As It Was

Between 1852 and 1890, this City had five highly esteemed private educational institutions. Four of them—The Young Ladies' Seminary, St. Catherine's Convent, The Collegiate Institute (of law), The College of St. Augustine—and even the dignified, three-story public school) eventually bowed to movers' equipment or to wrecking crews. Only proud St. Mary of the Pacific refused to go that way. Queen of them all, she ended her earthly existence here in a spectacular nighttime fire "whose flames burned so fiercely" that "the whole city and country round about was lighted up!"

Beautiful St. Mary's Wall stood majestically above this city for almost fifty years. Built upon the crest of a hill at East L and Second Streets, that stately three-and-a-half story Victorian masterpiece, with its mansard roof with tower, a chapel steeple, and a high, main-entrance staircase to the second floor, was long a familiar landmark for sea captains who maneuvered their vessels through Carquinez Strait currents. Though sturdy enough to serve for a century or more, sadly the building was actually used for only fourteen years.

In the Beginning

Dr. James Lloyd Breck arrived in Benicia on January 6, 1868 to found the Episcopal Missionary College of St. Augustine upon the campus of the former Collegiate Institute. For the next eight years, in addition to his heavy ministerial and educational duties, that "dedicated man of God" carried on a strenuous, fund-raising campaign so that he might enlarge the young men's school and establish and build its sister institution, St. Mary of the Pacific. Suddenly, Dr. Breck collapsed

from exhaustion on March 2, 1876 and died on the thirtieth of the same month. The bells of St. Mary's began to toll.

Bishop J.H.D. Wingfield, rector at the College, then in addition to his arduous diocesan obligations assumed the administration of St. Augustine's and the pastoral care of Benicia's St. Paul's Episcopal Parish. Unable to sell St. Mary's, which was heavily in debt, he subsidized its operation with his own private funds until they were depleted. The academy had attained a high degree of acclaim on the Pacific Coast, but, because of the increasing cost of maintenance, the Graduation Exercises of 1885 marked the end of the final term of that elite Episcopal school. Dreams of equal opportunity in education for young women within a religious atmosphere were over. The elegant building was to stand empty and forlorn for the next thirty years.

So It Was Then

Mrs. Ruth Alexander of Benicia recalled the delicious shivers of excitement she felt when, as a wee girl, she and a few small friends tiptoed into the abandoned gardens of the school after older children said St. Mary's was a "haunted house." The slightest sound sent the little ones scampering wildly out into the street for imagined safety. She also remembered that all the paths were lined with half-buried up-ended brown bottles, and that the air beneath the dark canopy of thick trees and shrubs was heavy with the "sweet scent of thousands of China lilies."

After Bishop Wingfield's death in 1898, the once proud edifice, relentlessly battered by time "and the elements" and later by vandals, deteriorated rapidly. In the early part of this century, "hoboes" were said to have sought both nocturnal and inclement-weather refuge there. Minimal care of the grounds provided by concerned citizens proved ineffective. The lovely old school estimated after the fire by some long-time residents as having cost close to \$50,000 became a pathetic eye-sore. Then, on April 30, 1915, the dilemma was resolved.

And Ever Shall Be

At three o'clock that morning, the huge clapper in the great, cupola-covered cast steel ball on top of the old Capitol sounded a multiple alarm.

St. Mary's was on fire!

Brigade regulars and volunteers needed no directions. The hills north of town were "as bright as day" from the light of flames which spiraled up into a giant beacon. When the men who pulled the hose carts arrived at the site, they found the school a blazing inferno, completely out of control. The valiant firemen could only "remain on hand to see that the flames did not spread." Fortunately, high wind was in a favorable quarter and the residences of General MacGregor (the Captain Walsh home) and Alfred Dalton Sr. were in no great danger.

When the panic-rousing tones of the 1857 Naylor-Vickers fire bell had first shattered the velvet quiet of the night, hundreds of citizens rose from their beds, dressed hurriedly, and rushed to the scene of the conflagration. All was in turmoil. Fire fighters and the town constable shouted frantic warnings and commands, repeated by the surging spectators as burning embers sprayed the air.

After the crunching, flaming beams and rafters collapsed into the seething crater below, the fire-eaten superstructure finally crashed, pulling with it one of the four-story brick chimneys. The roar, echoed by the startled throng of watchers, was thunderous. Burning debris jetted out into the crowd causing a frenzied retreat while as if violently ejected from an erupting volcano, molten cinders and fiery sparks shot high into the black sky, dimming the stars.

The ravenous fire with its blistering heat and crackling noise burned throughout the night until it was reflected by streaks of the dawn's first light. St. Mary's was no more.

That great lady, superstar that she was, had chosen an extravaganza of Nature's fireworks for her Grand Finale. Wearing a shimmering gown of orange, red and yellow brilliants, she made her last bow in a searing Blaze of Glory.

So Be It

Mr. Theodore Culver (who became a local nonagenarian on November 16, 1978) said that the rubble seethed for over a week and an odor of charred wood filled the air. Because the building had been idle for so long, its destruction was immaterial. Perhaps the fire was even a civic "Godsend." Yet surely, to some sensitive people, the thick pillar of bruise-colored smoke rising into the heavens for more than seven days and nights must have seemed a symbol of a sacrificial offering, made up of the lives, the fortunes, and the hopes of two holy men and their hundreds of supporters; an offering consumed upon a funeral pyre of broken dreams.

A CEREMONY OF FORTUNE

by Charlene Erwin

Because of a long ago wedding, Our Town was given its lovely name!

That marriage ceremony—of such significance for us—was solemnized in the Chapel of the Presidio of San Diego March 6, 1832. There, Alferez Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo took as his bride “Francisca Maria Felipa Benicia Carrillo, daughter of Joaquin Carrillo and his wife Maria Ignatius Lopez.”

Padre Fernando Martin, who had baptized the infant Francisca in 1851, performed the nuptial celebration in the very chapel “where twenty-three years before” her mother had been married.” “Wedding guests stood” around the young couple, “. . . there were no pews in the churches in those days.” During the Sacramental Rites, “Padre Martin blessed the rings and the arras, then he put one ring on (the finger of) Alferez Vallejo’s hand, and Mariano put the other ring on (the finger of) his bride’s hand; then he gave her the arras (thirteen ounces of glittering California gold) saying, ‘This ring and these arras I give thee in token of matrimony.’ Francisca, declining the gift of arras, placed the gold on the church platter, thereby earning the promised blessing of many future children. The wedding sponsors were Don Juan Bandini, his wife Dona Dolores Estudillo and Senor Joaquin Ortega.”

If “beautiful” sixteen-year-old

Francisca—of the “dark lustrous eyes and regular classic features”—followed Spanish custom, she was dressed in a white lace bridal gown with a tight bodice and a full skirt of tiered ruffles. An elegant white lace mantilla, possibly a family heirloom, would have graced her shining black curls. The settlement of San Diego, after sixty-two years of existence in that warm temperate zone, must have teemed with luxuriant gardens. Perhaps, then, Francisca carried choice blossoms which she placed before a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary when the Holy Rites were concluded. By Hispanic tradition, her mother would have been her attendant but, at present, no such translated record has been found. The twenty-four-year-old benedict wore “. . . a richly embroidered satin vest which he was still able to wear on his fiftieth Wedding Anniversary in Sonoma, March 6, 1882!”

Imagine ancient bells joyfully ringing out news of the Sacred Vows just made as the happy bride and groom led their families and the special guests from the Chapel. Once outside, the “invitados” would have mingled with the waiting, gaily-dressed townspeople. Then, quite likely, high-spirited young “dons” impulsively lifted Mariano and Francisca into a decorated, ceremonial “carreta” to ride ahead of the jubilant merrymakers following in festive procession over the sandy streets to the social part of the “boda nupcial.”

The reception was held in the town’s most elaborate home, that of the sponsor Senor Juan Bandini, where “sumptuous feast was furnished by the San Diego Band and by an Indian Orchestra from the San Luis Rey Mission. . . .”

A highlight of that joyous fiesta was a toast by a distinguished guest “Acting-Governor Jose Maria Echeandia” who said “I drink to the happiness of this young couple whom I appreciate and esteem. I make young Vallejo the Ensign of Cavalry for his merits and activity in service. (Mariano was yet to become Comandante-General of the Northern Frontier of Alta California). I have known his young wife since she was eight years old and I have had frequent occasion to admire her fine manners. May Heaven keep happiness for them. . . .” His proffered good wishes came true for the most part, but in the Mission Town of Sonoma rather than in the new senora’s hometown of San Diego.



Dona Maria Francisca Filipa Benicia Carrillo De Vallejo as painted by unknown artist a number of years after her marriage.



General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo as painted by Arriola Fortunato in 1864.

On December 22, 1846 in the fifteenth year of that congenial early California marriage, Mariano entered into a contract with American pioneer Dr. Robert Baylor Semple to establish upon Vallejo’s Soscol Grant-land along the north shore of Carquinez Strait a town which would be named “Francisca” to honor the General’s “cherished wife”; Our Town!

On January 19, 1847, the document was taken to be filed with Alcalde Washington A. Barlett in Yerba Buena, also known as “San Francisco.” That U.S. Magistrate, at once sensing the similarity between the names of our planned community and his own settlement, issued a hurried order that henceforth his village was to be referred to “officially” by its second title, which honored Saint Francis and appeared on seafaring maps.

The last one of the three other “Christian names” of that little bride of 1832 was then chosen for Our City-to-be. Thereafter, even though Mariano called his constant wife “Francisca” as long as she lived, Senora de Vallejo for the rest of her days always proudly signed her name “Benicia!”

Beautiful Days of Yesteryear

by Evelyn Lockie

Looking back at my father and mother, I think a good descriptive word would be fun-loving. We were a happy family. We laughed a lot and we truly loved one another. Yet, despite our closeness, we were not particularly demonstrative. I shall never forget how startled I was when I visited a friend over a weekend and discovered that they kissed one another every time they left or returned to the house.

I so well remember mama getting dressed to go to Rebekah Lodge and we three children all standing around the bureau as she was arranging her long, black satiny hair in a knot atop her head. "You'll be the prettiest lady there," we would say—Years later she used to tell how much our admiration buoyed her up until she really thought she was among the prettiest women there.

On the occasion of my parent's silver anniversary, papa closed down the hay press and he and mama took off for a three-day fling in San Francisco to celebrate. And I well remember my sober, twenty-three-year-old brother being disgruntled at losing all that good money by taking those days off.

Marshall was also annoyed with papa's devotion to the Odd Fellows Lodge. Being a fine speaker, papa nearly always conducted the Odd Fellow funerals. I'll never forget Marshall's declaiming, "I knew they must die, but why, oh why, do Odd Fellows always die in the middle of harvest season!"

We were great apple cider drinkers. Every fall, boxes and boxes of apples would be stacked high around the cider press out in the barn. Nearly every night, papa would press out a pitcher of cider and how good it was, sweet, tangy and icy cold. When there was company, it took two or three pitcherfuls to go with the bowls of popcorn or crackers and cheese. I can still shut my eyes and taste that wonderful cider.

From my earliest childhood many of our evenings were spent with papa reading aloud to us. Mama and grandma generally had a mending basket to work on or grandma might get out her heavy wooden knitting needles to make scatter rugs. Very special times were when we had received her latest book from papa's cousin and we could hardly wait for night to come, the Rayo lamp lighted in the sitting room, and a few more chapters read. Probably my favorite character of all time is Anne of Green Gables. I grew up loving her and I grew up with her.

It wasn't always fiction. Some times it would just be news from the *Sacramento Bee*. That paper was part of our lives and the day was never complete without a trip to Suisun to get the *Bee* out of our box in the stationery store as well as the mail from our box at the Suisun City post office. And there were magazine articles as well. I remember so well the night papa read about the Acoma Indians in New Mexico, how they lived atop a flat mesa, how their only means to get there was by hand and toe holds in the steep rock wall; how it took them forty

years to create a graveyard by bringing sand by the sackful, by bagful, even just by a pocketful, so that their dead could be buried in hallowed ground. I played Acoma Indian for a long time after that in our big barn, using convenient knot holes for toe and hand holds. Years later, when I actually visited the pueblo, you can imagine what memories it brought back as I climbed the Padres Trail, using those ancient holds to reach the top and walked around the graveyard.

A great deal of reading was about foreign lands, their people, their customs, their histories, their memorable places. When I was about to embark on my first visit for six months, someone asked what I intended to do. My answer was "Cry a lot," I said, "because of all the places I have scheduled myself to see, most came from papa's reading aloud when I was a child. It will almost be like a pilgrimage to a shrine." And that's the way it was.

How lucky we were as children to have shared that vast amount of reading. We became familiar with things and places, as well as history, far beyond the reaches of our small valley. We were able to envision the world. I, for one, soaked up the written page like a sponge soaking up water. And once I was able to handle a book and read, I never stopped. But Marshall went beyond me. He is the only person I ever knew who also read in entirety our forty-volume set of encyclopedia that graced our parlor, and which helped everyone of us through high school.

One day when I was about four years old, I ran away. The wild lupine and the poppies lined the roadside and I just kept on going. Mama finally caught up to me, took me home and tried to make me promise never to run away again. But some naughty demon inside me wouldn't let me open my lips. So she tied me up to the apple tree with a stout rope, leaving me with about a six-foot leeway, and put my little chair out for me to sit in and contemplate my evil ways.

Pretty soon papa came along, saw my plight and my tears, and asking me to be a good little girl, untied me. I carefully watched until he was out of sight and promptly ran away again. Try as I might, I simply can't remember what happened after that, but I never ran away again.

Making vinegar candy was one of the fun highlights of my childhood and it was something we often did. All there was to it was to boil together two cups of sugar, one cup of vinegar and a big lump of butter to the hard stage, then pull.

We always made ours in a big iron frying pan and we tested by dropping a glob of the boiling liquid into a cup of cold water. When it was just right, it was turned into buttered plates or platters and then we would hover over it until it was cool enough to handle. We nearly always took the outer edge and flipped back into the center, letting the hottest section flow out to cool faster.

Then with buttered hands mama would begin

to pull the candy. She was an expert and with quick firm-sweeping pulls, the candy was soon shiny white and ready to pull out into a narrow long rope which we snipped into individual pieces with the scissors.

Once my brother Herbie managed to tip a plate of the boiling candy onto the palms of both hands and seriously burned himself. I can remember mama getting the sticky candy off, then rapidly grating raw potatoes, mixing them with oil, and applying the mixture to his palms.

Another time when we were making vinegar candy, mama was in the process of pulling those long strands and started "funning" with us; making great swoops at each of us. All of a sudden she lost control and the entire lot broke off and fell into the wood box. As it was nearly empty, the candy was completely covered with coarse sawdust and bits of bark and was utterly unusable. So we made another batch, warning mama not to be so flip next time around.

We always had such happy times around the supper table at night. We ate in the kitchen which was big and comfortable. The table was a drop leaf, so when it wasn't in use for meals, there was plenty of room to use as a gathering place. In the corner by the stove was Grandma Marshall's rocker where she always sat. She was never idle, always peeling vegetables, churning, mending. Sometimes she would knit heavy rag throw rugs.

Papa sat at the head and always served the plates. I was on his right and Marshall on his left. Beside Marshall was Herbie and alongside me was Grandma. Mama sat at the end so that she could get up and down. Often we would have a one dish meal starting with a pork roast out of the brine barrel on the outside porch. With that would go string beans and potatoes. We all loved chowder, too, and I can remember eating bowl after bowl of clam chowder, corn chowder or a whatever chowder of what was available. And oh, when the mustard greens began growing in the orchard, how we loved them cooked with potatoes and hog jowl. Quite often mama would pop a pair of either graham bread or corn bread into the oven and it was ready when we sat down to eat. Hot and liberally buttered, how good it was. Too, mama often popped a plain cake into the oven just as we sat down and when dessert time came, the cake was ready. Nothing is better than hot cake, well buttered. However, much of the time I would be sent to the cellar to fetch up a quart of canned-fruit pears, peaches, apricots—the cellar was amply stocked, and there was a great variety to choose from.

Papa's remark to everyone I remember oh so well. He would say, "Back up your little carts if you want more."

We were talkative; we were interested in everything and everybody. And I can't remember that there was ever a disagreeable incident happening at the supper table.



The Chinese Temple in Vacaville

by Marilyn Baldwin

"No one but me knows about the temple in Vacaville," stated Chong Yee during an interview with Ron Limbaugh in 1977.¹ Born in Vacaville in 1902, Chong Yee grew up very close to the temple. The temple he talked about consisted of one room inside a wooden building on Dobbins Street. Although the exact location is not known, Chong Yee said it is now a parking lot. The only parking lot on Dobbins Street is located across from the Fire Station. Chong Yee lived down the street next to the Sinola bar, where Choocks is now located.² The Chinese temple was built with contributions from the Chinese community. Most temples in California were built from private family or benevolent associations funds.³ Since there are no records of the Temple, we can only surmise that it existed sometime between 1880, when the Chinese community reached its peak in Vacaville, and 1940, when the buildings were torn down.⁴

The temple room itself was not significant; in fact, Chong Yee says "it was dark as the ace of spades, no light you know. One carbon globe burning up there so fly-specked it might as well be nothing."⁵ Against the center wall was a picture of a god, and below it was a "wood-carved altar, quite a beautiful thing." We don't know which god was in the picture; however, we do know that every temple in California had more than one god and there were always Kuan Yu and Guin Yin in every temple. Kuan Yu is still

a very popular god. He lived during the Hans dynasty (200 A.D.)⁶ and became canonized after his death for performing feats of valor. He is recognized for his red face, a mark given him to aid in his escape after killing a wealthy and powerful lord who wanted to take the only daughter of an old couple.⁷ His full title is Faithful and Loyal Great Ti (Ti meaning God) Supporter of Heaven and Protector of the Kingdom.⁸ Although he is known as the god of war, he actually averts wars and conflicts. Perhaps it was for this reason that the Chinese felt the need for his protection in racially torn California.

Somewhere else in the temple room would be a statue of Guin Yin, the goddess of mercy. Guin Yin, a bodhisattva, is the guardian angel of Buddhism. "She protects in sorrow, and so millions of times the prayer is offered, 'Great mercy, great pity, save from sorrow, save from suffering'."⁹ Guin Yin is a loving goddess and her image has been placed in all the temples as well as in homes and in the fields.¹⁰

There was one aspect about the Vacaville temple that differed from other temples in California. Chung Yee relates that old men lived in the basement under the temple and some died there. This is contrary to the use of a temple. Usually one enters the temple, lights a few incense sticks, offers some prayers and sacrifices, then leaves. One explanation for the

presence of the men was given by Dr. Eve Armentrout Ma, a researcher in Chinese religion. She feels that Hua'T'O, the god of medicine, could have been inside the temple and the men were looking for a release from sickness or seeking longevity.¹¹ Hua'T'O had the power to release men from the pains of the red dust (earth) and to cure illnesses. This would have required repeated visits.

If the men were living there for want of shelter, the community provided other, more suitable places for them to live. The Chinese culture respected age and always had places for the elderly to go. Vacaville had tongs (secret societies) and benevolent societies (clan societies) that provided for members of the community when in need. Every Chinese community had a community leader who supplied indigent members with food and shelter when they needed it. Hay Sing, a local laundry man in the 1880s, was frequently cited in the local newspaper for his generosity to his fellow brothers. He was also the Chinese community leader and it was his responsibility to care for the members of his community.¹²

This tradition continued until Sam Lum's restaurant, Te Gum Moon, and boarding house were sold in 1958.¹³ If the men did not wish to remain in Vacaville, they could return to their benevolent association house in San Francisco and live there as long as they had paid their dues. Also, there were farmers in the area that kept the older Chinese men on their ranches giving them shelter and a plot of land to grow a few vegetables. Thus, the temple basement was not the only place to live, but existence there would have given possibility to Hau'T'O.

Along with the gods, the temple had items used for divination. Chinese often came to the temple, sometimes daily to seek answers to questions or to find good luck. A popular item that is still used today is the joss sticks. These are bamboo strips with writings on them. They were kept in a bamboo cylinder cup and were on the altar in the Vacaville temple. Chong Yee's mother probably used the joss sticks to seek answers to questions or to see if the day would bring good fortune. She would toss the sticks out upon the altar, then using a translation book kept in the temple for this purpose, would read the information from the sticks to see if the writings on the sticks would bring her good luck.¹⁴ In many of the temples there would be a caretaker whose job was to translate the sticks in addition to custodial care of the temple. Another device used in the temples was divination blocks. These were flat on one side and fitted into each other. One side would be convex and the other concave. These blocks represent Yin and Yang, negative and positive forces in the world. They would be rolled on the floor for answers to specific questions.¹⁵



Guin Yin, Goddess of Mercy.

The temple structure itself represented the combination of Yin and Yang. When Yin and Yang are in balance, Qui, a positive force, is present. Qui is achieved by building certain features into the building. First the door threshold must be up off the floor to prevent Kwei, (devils, or evil spirits) from entering.¹⁶ In fact the door could not face north because Kwei enter most frequently from the north.¹⁷

There would be a spirit door placed just inside the room and directly in front of the entrance. When entering into the temple one would have to walk around the door. Frequently spirit doors are screens instead of doors. Kwei can not step up, nor go in any direction except straight ahead. Thus, only Shen, a good spirit, can enter the temple and Qui is obtained when Shen resides within.

Qui is also important to obtain inside the homes and bunk houses. To keep themselves from calamities many Chinese had pictures of gods in their homes. Chong Yee talks about the parlor god, back door god and kitchen god. Each month his mother would cook a little chicken and fix some tea. Then Chong Yee would carry the tray for his mother and they would place a little sacrifice in front of each image and kowtow three times. The most important god in a home or bunk house is the kitchen god. He brings good luck to the kitchen and helps to provide for abundance of food.¹⁸ Each New Year during the celebrations, the kitchen god's mouth is smeared with honey and then he is burned so that his spirit can ascend to Tien (God) where he will hopefully give a good report of the family. The family then buys a new image of the kitchen god for the coming year.¹⁹



The most important god was the kitchen god. His picture was in nearly every home.



Kuan Yu, God of War

While most Chinese families and individuals worshiped the kitchen god in their homes, many never entered the temple to worship the gods there. Religion is very different in Eastern cultures. In China religion is not monotheistic as it is in western religion. Taoism blends very easily with Buddhism, and local gods are placed beside national ones.²⁰ One may worship one, or all gods, or none; there are no requirements on the amount, time, or desire to worship. It is a very individual thing. Since the Chinese did not use a temple the same way that western religion uses a church, what was the purpose of having a temple in Vacaville? Besides, weren't the Chinese only temporary laborers? This would be especially true after the passage of the Exclusion Laws started in 1882.²¹ Many Chinese did not look at California as a temporary residence; they were having financial and political difficulties in China. Why return to a home of drought, political neglect, and a struggling existence. If the Exclusion Laws had not been passed, many Chinese men would have brought their families to California to make their homes here.²² Those who did remain wanted to maintain some cultural ties with their motherland. They were proud to be Chinese. Thus, the building of a temple formed a mental bridge between China and California. It signified a continuance of Chinese society in western culture and a symbol of permanence in the California community. When Chon Yee talked about the Vacaville temple he reaffirmed his cultural ties with China and his community ties with Vacaville.

About Our Authors

Marilyn Baldwin is a Vacaville resident who was away from the northern Solano city from 1975—1983. Since returning she has studied at University of California at Davis and is now completing requirements for a teaching certificate at Sonoma State University. She has been doing research on the Chinese in Solano for several years.

Charlene Erwin, a descendant of the famous Paladini-Dillingham sea-going family, wrote several articles for the Benicia Historical Society's "*Benicia Sentinel*" before her death in 1981. Miss Erwin lived in the family home in Benicia and taught school in Vallejo for many years. A series of her articles are appearing in the *Solano Historian*.

Lee Fountain, a retired Solano Community College instructor, has been a volunteer at the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum since its inception and a longtime Solano County Historical Society worker.

Dr. C. Thomas Hosley, a past commodore of the Vallejo Yacht Club, is now its historian. After retiring from his position as vice president of Solano Community College, he and his wife have cruised as far as Alaska in their boat. His many talents include musical ability. He is an accomplished trumpet player.

Evelyn Woolner Lockie, a Solano native, was a valedictorian of Armijo High School, attended Mills College, and spent three years studying theater. She was an official reader at KPO when radio was new, a correspondent for the *Sacramento Bee*, and a woman deputy in the Solano County Sheriff's Department before she decided to see the world. For seven years she traveled, visiting over a hundred countries before returning to retire in Solano County. Several years ago she moved to a south Bay Area.

Oar, Power and Sail - A Brief History of the Vallejo Yacht Club

(Continued From Last Issue)

by C. Thomas Hosley

The financial report of 1944 shows the club had \$8,000 in War Bonds and \$27.50 in War Stamps on hand. The 1944 Yachting Yearbook listed eighteen VYC members who were enrolled in the armed services. Of those listed, Joe Schlosser, Arthur Krause and LeRoy Taylor are still members of the Yacht Club.

A new permanent enclosed harbor was the most pressing need after World War II. Since the building of the club in 1901-02 there had been a continuous but losing battle to provide adequate docking facilities for the club boats. The Mare Island Channel continually silted in and was not dredged on the Vallejo side. With only six registered yachts in the club by 1906 it was not a great problem initially but as the fleet grew and the water around the clubhouse became more shallow, the necessity for docks became more pressing. In 1906 Captain Francis B. Smith and his men provided the pile driver gratis to build the first wharf. For this service he was granted an honorary life membership in the club. New floats were added from time

to time. By the mid-thirties walkways with floating fingers were built both to the north and the south of the clubhouse. There were twenty-four "outside stalls" and eight to ten "inside stalls" available. Silting up of the berths was a constant problem. At low tide most of the boats sat in the mud completely out of the water.

Records of 1940 show that Ed Lippstreu was paid \$650 for outside dredging. A bid by A. S. Dutra for \$3,000 to dredge an area of 150 x 500 ft. was never acted upon. In 1949, Commodore O.B. Earle arranged to have forty temporary berths constructed in deep water north of the present clubhouse. These berths were connected to the clubhouse by a long walkway.

Finally in 1952, under the direction of Commodore Arthur Krause, construction was started on the present harbor. Club members used the machine shop at Vallejo High School to fabricate the parts for a suction dredge and they purchased an old pile driver from L.R. Iford for one dollar. Teams of volunteers each worked one weekend per month to complete the

dredging and to drive the piles. The dredge and pile driver were often patched back together. The equipment was sold to Bill Bird in 1964 for \$1,000. Bird became the commodore of VYC in 1982. The new harbor continued to silt in as there was no seawall yet built to keep the mud out. Ed O'Brien, captain of the "M. S. Mudhen" (dredger) dredged out the mud "and everything else thrown in for the last fifty year". Tony and Manual Silveria along with Angelo Rega were in charge of the construction of the bulkheads according to the article in the first issue of the "Binnacle" in January 1956. By April the forty temporary berths constructed in 1949 were moved into the new harbor and the task of hooking up the water and electricity began. The seawall bulkhead was finally finished in December 1956. A covered berth project was undertaken in 1957 with the pile driving by Paul Streichan, Dr. Jack Lazarus, and Herman and J. R. Brinkman. In July 1956 the ownership of the covered berths became a heated issue as to the legality of the



View from Vallejo Yacht Club on Opening Day, May 1, 1937.

covered berth association formed in 1957. The issue still is not settled today. The covered berths are owned by individual members who pay the club a reduced rate. Dr. George Halterman obtained permission to have individual members build berths at their own expense on what is now "D" row. They received a \$5.00 per month reduction in rent. The 82 berths available in 1968 were increased by extending "B" and "C" rows and adding a new "E" row at the north end of the harbor. Much of this work was done by the old faithful volunteers, Red Fox, Ed Grafton, Art Campbell, Ray Warren, Bill Hanley, Antone Nachbaur, Tony Silveria, and others. The sizes of the new berths were 30 feet or more in length and made wider to accommodate the growing number of larger sailboats. It is interesting to note the changes in the fleet through the years. Until the post World War II period, the sailing fleet was small with only eleven listed in 1944 while the motor boat fleet was forty-six strong. The next year showed a count of 25 sailboats and 35 motorboats. By 1975 the fleet numbered 175 with an even split between motor and sailboats. Currently, in 1987, sailboats outnumber powerboats 141 to 72. There is a waiting list for the larger berths.

Another massive dredging project was completed in 1977 during which all of the berths and headwalks had to be moved and most of the boats were temporarily berthed at the Vallejo Municipal Marina. Port Captain Bob Hull and Jay Baron with Board Chairman Horace MacKerrow overseeing the project completed the massive job in record time. Additional dredging was done in 1982. The sea wall bulkhead was repaired in 1980. The current two to three year project to replace and/or repair all of the berths and walkways was begun in 1986 with Vern Coburn, Don Searle, and Art Campbell heading up the crews of volunteers.

Cruising has long been a popular boating activity. Individuals cruise up to the Delta, "downbay" to San Francisco destinations with the more venturesome heading out the "Gate" for coastal and ocean cruises to far away ports. Organized club cruises from other yacht clubs have been hosted by Vallejo Yacht Club since 1900 and continue today. Incoming cruises from the Delta clubs including Sacramento, Stockton Sailing Club and others augment the visitors from the "downbay clubs". The Vallejo Yacht Club fleet has a full schedule of cruises each year, often starting in February and traditionally ending with the cruise to Solano Yacht Club in October. A typical cruise organized by the cruise chairman includes both power and sailboats, and a sailboat race to the destination is often included. Upon arrival at the host club a "happy hour" aboard the boats or at the clubhouse is followed by dinner and often entertainment. A breakfast is usually available at the club on the following morning. Popular destinations for Vallejo cruises have been Richmond, Point San Pablo, Encinal, Corinthian, San Francisco, Treasure Island, San Rafael, Loch Lomond, Petaluma, Martinez, and Solano Yacht Clubs. One of the largest cruises took place on February 14, 1976, when 30 boats and 125 yacht club members went to Petaluma to help



The pile drive (left) and club-member-built dredge were used to construct the present harbor.
Photograph circa 1949-50.

that city celebrate its bicentennial and dredging of the river and yacht basin. Bill Frye organized the "Geritol" cruises in 1982. The club's old timers meet once per month to go by boat to a nearby yacht club or restaurant for lunch. Walt McComas on "Sea Foam" has been the official Geritol cruiseboat. Destinations include Benicia, Martinez, Rodeo, and Bruce Oelschlager's home on the Napa River. One of their most successful cruises was to the California Maritime Academy on April 19, 1982.

Cruises along the California coast as far south as San Diego by yacht club members have been fairly numerous, particularly in recent years when boats and equipment have improved dramatically. Cruises up the coast beyond Point Reyes are rare because of the hard beat into the wind and waves caused by the prevailing westerlies and the Japanese current.

Long voyages undertaken by Vallejo Yacht Club members are a fascinating part of the club history. Accounts of these voyages since 1956 have appeared in the "*Binnacle*" thus allowing the less adventuresome "armchair" sailors to share these experiences.

The earliest account of a long voyage by a club member is that of the schooner "California", to Hawaii and the South Pacific. The vessel was built near the yacht club in 1935 by club member John Polkinghorn. In 1960, "Blue Star" a 37-foot ketch owned by club member Ernest Wilson sailed to Hawaii. US Navy officer Will Chestnut, Don Kay and Andy Verducci delivered "Mama" to Lahaina, Hawaii, in May of 1976. Scott Lawler with crew members Jimmy Robbins (age 14), Frank Calligan and Nick Hauser sailed his Columbia 36, "Artful Dodger" to Hawaii in 16 days with

a return trip of 21 days. Round trip voyages up the coast to Puget Sound and some on to Alaska include: Bert Richardson in the "Marquesa" (1979), John and Glynis McKay in "Picean" (1980), Tom and Virginia Hosley in "Snowflake" (1983), Bill and Carolyn Daly in "Ichi Ban" (1986-87) and Dave Lastufka and Kim Harbeck in "Ariel" (1982). "Ariel" also cruised to Mexico in 1984 as did Al and Linda Middleton in "La Machine" (1982).

Vallejo Yacht Club members who sailed their boats to Mexico, through the Panama Canal, the Caribbean and the east coast include: Bill and Jean Robinson in "Tango Too", Dick and Sandy Abbott in "Belo Horizonte" and Russ and Lois Robinson in "Some Fun II". The latter three were multi-year voyages.

Two Vallejo Yacht Club boats hold the record for the most extensive cruises. "Jabberwocky III" and "Kanska" were both sailed by retired couples. Garry and Berta Saxon started their cruise from Erie, Pennsylvania, in 1973 after purchasing "Jabberwocky" (a Pearson Invicta 39) and sailed down to the Caribbean and trucked the boat back to Vallejo. In 1977 the boat was again trucked to Corpus Christi, Texas, and then sailed up the east coast, through the Great Lakes, hence by truck to the northwest. After cruising the Columbia River and Puget Sound they sailed back to Vallejo. Phase three of their voyaging took them south, through the Panama Canal, the Caribbean, east coast, back down the Mississippi and other rivers, and a final truck trip back to Vallejo Yacht Club in 1987. Berta and Garry have lived aboard "Jabberwocky" throughout this fourteen year period.

Bill Batchelor's cruising adventures began



Old timers meet at VYC in August 1947. From left to right are, standing, Bert Ryan, Joe Emms, Jean Shaeffer, Dick Stoddard, and, seated, Herman Streichan, Toney Smith, Bill Kirkland, and Jack Scully in slicker.

with a cruise to the Channel Islands, California, in 1968 in the Tahiti ketch, "Nepenthe". Although the return trip was slow, a Tahiti ketch is not known for its speed to windward. Bill stated that he could hardly wait until he could cruise 365 days a year. His dream came true in 1982 when after years of building his Westsail 32, "Kanska", he and Thelma set sail on December 9, 1982, heading south. They left San Diego on March 28, 1983, and arrived 19 days later in Hawaii. The next stop was Pelican, Alaska, after a slow 28-day trip from Hawaii. After cruising Alaska they traveled south and found a berth for the winter at Port Townsend, Washington. In the spring of 1984 they cruised British Columbia and Puget Sound. They returned to Vallejo on September 10, 1984, 21 months and two days after departing from Vallejo. They left again in January of 1985 for a voyage that included Mexico, Tahiti, the Marquesas, Bora Bora, Huahine, Raiatea, and on to Hilo, Hawaii. After wintering in Hawaii "Kanska" sailed back to Vallejo in September of 1987.

Four Vallejo boats took one way voyages and did not return to Vallejo. "Mama" mentioned earlier, "Poseidon" with John and Helen

Howard sailed to Mexico in 1971 where they lived aboard for a number of years. Monte Walker, who built his boat from surplus steel and other materials such as the mast made from truck drive shafts welded together, rigging from surplus power pole guys and an ingenious transmission using automobile tires and wheels, sailed to Mexico in 1983 where he remains aboard "Monte Bell". "Darwin", a Bristol 27, was sailed to Hawaii in 1978 by Larry Ohs. Larry returned to the San Francisco Bay area in April 1982 to crew in the Farallons double-handed race. In the sudden storm that swept down on the fleet he and his boat, among others, were lost at sea. The only other Vallejo Yacht Club member lost at sea was William Jones and his crewman Van Reyper who were found washed ashore near Half Moon Bay in November of 1971. They were returning from Monterey Bay.

A number of boats have been built by Vallejo Yacht Club members. In the early days many boats were built locally but it is uncertain how many of the yacht club fleet were built by members.

The schooner "California" was the largest boat built by a VYC member. John Polkinghorn

built the 57-foot three-masted vessel in 1934-35 just south of the old VYC clubhouse. Polkinghorn joined the club in 1920, served on the board of directors, as port captain, fleet captain and as the club steward. Red Fox recalls helping caulk the decks and launching the "California". She sailed in the San Francisco Race to Honolulu in 1936. It was Polkinghorn's dream to sail the boat to England. He started out in 1939 by sailing to the Marquesas. Unfortunately, World War II began in Europe that year and the crew refused to continue into the potentially troubled waters. She then remained in the South Seas for a year when Polkinghorn's son, Tom, and a crew returned her to Vallejo. After the war the "California" was sold to two men who wanted to sail around the world. This voyage was never completed. In the 1960s she was a cruise charter boat taking tourists from Ali Wai Harbor, Honolulu, on dinner cruises near Diamond Head. In 1976, Captain George Falkesgaard, president of the Scandinavian Shipping and Charter Service, bought her for charter cruises in the San Diego harbor. Tom Hosley was aboard her twice in the late 1970s. She was rigged as a brigantine at that time. Unfortunately, on February 15, 1981, she ran

aground at Dana Point in the fog while returning from a whale watching excursion with fifty-four passengers aboard. They were all rescued. Although she was refloated she was beyond repair.

Ray Clazie built two sail boats in addition to several El Toros. In 1949 he built and sailed "Fuzzy", Bear Class boat #49. His present boat, "Crony", a Friendship sloop design, was built in his yard at home over a period of several years and was completed in 1970. His craftsmanship is evident in the fine construction of his boat. Ray also carved the trail boards and billet head that are in the Staircase of Sea Power in the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum.

The brigantine "Redbird" is another example of fine workmanship. She was built by Norman "Bonny" Bonenberger over a ten year period at his Vallejo shop and was launched on July 24, 1982. Ernie and Marcella Woods built "Springtides", a Chesapeake Bay skipjack design by William Adkins, in their backyard in Pleasant Hill and the launching was in May 1978. Walter Al Richardson liked the design of the Thunderbird so well that he built a larger version in ferro cement called "Sea Dancer". Of the powerboats built by club members, "Francis F.", a power cruiser was built by Red Fox in 1927. Herman Streichan and Ed Brovelli completed their forty-foot power cruisers "Wiphen" and "Teema" from identical hulls at the Nunes Boatyard in Sausalito. Both men finished the interiors and superstructures of their vessels.

Power boat racing was just getting started in 1900 when the Vallejo Yachting and Rowing Club was organized. Racing was mostly between launches and runabouts powered with small gasoline engines of various types. Horace Etzel won the Semi Speed Trophy on July 4, 1911, in "Kalitan". The trophy won by Etzel is the oldest trophy in the club's collection.

A photograph of the 1908 Labor Day race shows boats of long, narrow, round-bottom design. As automobile engines were developed they were adapted for use in boats. This led to larger and faster runabouts and cruisers. Fast inboard speedboats became popular after World War I when surplus airplane engines, particularly the Hispano-Suizas and Curtis OX-5 were used. Outboard motor races became very popular in the 1930s with the development of more powerful and reliable outboard racing engines. Races were held in Mare Island Channel with the Yacht Club providing a fine place to watch. The Yacht Club sponsored some of these races.

Another facet of powerboat racing was "over-the-bottom" racing in power cruisers under the auspices of the Northern California Power Cruiser Association which was established in 1935. The rules state: "The contest is one of skill and good navigation, contestants being called upon to maintain at all times their declared speed over the ground in spite of wind, tide or current." This is no mean feat considering the strong wind and tide patterns of the Bay. Vallejo Yacht Club members Paul Streichan, E.J. Casper, Don Bishop, Bob Carden, Robert Frank, Stanley Lathan, Joe Schlosser, and Ed Silviera were the most active participants. Both

Don Bishop and Paul Streichan served as commodores of the Association. Don Bishop won the John Gudelj Perpetual Trophy in 1974 in "Po-Ho". Dr. Casper won the fifty-mile race from Martinez to Stockton in 1936. The only record we have of a VYC combined power and sailboat over-the-bottom race was to Napa on May 4, 1940, when the contestants selected to race either at five knots or eight knots. The results are not recorded. Vallejo Yacht Club has hosted the annual Hearst Regatta for many years. This powerboat race has had as many as sixty power cruisers coming to Vallejo. For the October 24, 1972, "predicted log" race from Richmond pier to VYC a three-foot tall trophy was donated by the Vallejo Downtown Association. Both the NAPC power cruiser race and the Yacht Racing Association of San Francisco Bay annual Vallejo sailboat race were held on the same day on May 7, 1938. A joint race was also held on May 9, 1942. In this race 125 sailboats started at 2:30 p.m. from Tiburon and 34 power cruisers started at 3:30 p.m. Because of military wartime restrictions Tiburon was the starting place rather than Oakland. Past Commodore Ellie Mullin raced his motor cruiser "Nancy M. II" as did Commodore Toney Smith in his sailboat "Vagabond". A report of the Vallejo Race of 1944 listed 100 boats participating. Over 500 guests crowded into the clubhouse at the end of the race on May 13, 1944. Boats were anchored in the channel in front of the clubhouse and the crews were ferried ashore. Chet Garrett in his Bird class boat "Shearwater" was entered in that race.

The Yachting Year Book has been published since 1922 by the Pacific Interclub Yachting Association (PICYA). Information from this year book has been especially helpful in iden-

tifying photographs of the Vallejo Yacht Club boats and in reconstructing the history of cruises and races to Vallejo. PICYA handled all racing schedules until 1935 when the job got too big. At that time NCPCA took over motorboat racing and YRA took charge of the sailboat race schedules. PICYA still prints the Yachting Year Book and conducts the "Opening Day on the Bay" ceremonies. Bob Carden has taken a lengthy active leadership role in PICYA and served as its commodore in 1978.

Sailboat racing at the Vallejo Yacht Club in the early days was an informal affair because the sailing fleet was small. On February 27, 1919, Thomas Bolger recommended that club races be held on a regular annual basis for yachts and motorboats. Cups were donated and the first race was held on May 8, 1919. Robert Ryan won the sailboat race in "Pronto" and A.E. Kelshaw in "Flirt" won the powerboat race on lapsed time and Joe Emms in "Margaret E." on actual time.

From 1900 on, the sailing fleets of various clubs on San Francisco Bay started the tradition of cruising to Vallejo on one day and racing home on the following day. This cruise-race evolved into the first race of the yachting season and by the early 1920s became known as the PICYA Cruise and Race to Vallejo and was listed in the Yachting Year Book from 1924 to 1935 when it became the YRA Vallejo Race. The number of boats participating grew each year until in 1970 when 585 boats crossed the finish line plus an estimated 100 additional boats that came along for the ride and party fun. Because of the rough weather, three sunken boats, and the great number of boats in the race, the U.S. Coast Guard forced the fleet to be divided into two sections in 1971 with one half



Yacht club members built four El Toros in Vallejo in 1947. Shown here in Ray Clazie's garage are, starting at left, Ray Sage, Ray Clazie, Chester Garrett, and Don Bishop.

of the boats coming to Vallejo and the others to Coyote Point on an alternate year schedule. This split continued until 1987 when the racing fleet had diminished to a manageable size. In 1987 all boats again came to Vallejo with 423 finishers. The Vallejo Race remains as one of the largest races in the nation.

Vallejo Yacht Club boats have participated regularly in the YRA races since the end of World War II. Arthur Krause brought his Hurricane -5 "Sea Spinster" in 1949 and raced her in YRA until the early 1980s. George Van Dolson has been a winner in two boats, "Zinfandel" and "Unicorn". Likewise Gary Cicerello in "Sleeper" and "Outrageous" has been a long-term YRA racer.

Another sailboat racing group that Vallejo Yacht Club has actively supported is the Small Boat Racing Association of Northern California. It was established in 1937 for small boats under 20 feet. Ray Clazie served as chairman from 1943 through 1946. Early boats were mostly El Toros, Melodies and Snipes. Vallejo Yacht Club has hosted SBRA regattas which included a joint effort on March 23, 1969, with the Vallejo Sailing Club. Recent regattas at Clear Lake were run by the Vallejo Yacht Club Juniors. Jeff Kay was the 1974 fleet champion. Tim Tiefenbach won the B championship in 1981.

The junior program and membership have waxed and waned over the years. The first listing of junior members appeared in 1909. Junior membership allowed youngsters to participate in the club's boating and social affairs at reduced initiation fees and dues. The major purpose of the junior membership was and is today to encourage young people to become interested in boating. Four of the club's commodores, Red Fox, "Shorty" Yuravich, LeRoy

Taylor, and Paul Streichan all joined the club as junior members. On June 28, 1936, junior member LeRoy Taylor won the George Bangle Trophy for a sailboat race.

In 1962 Mike Heffernan, junior program coordinator, proposed that the club finance the junior program at \$700 per year to pay for a youth director for June and July. The proposal was voted down with 71 against and 21 in favor. The largest number of junior members was 35 members in 1979.

In 1975 Commodore Horace MacKerrow assigned Vice Commodore "Tiny" Robbins the task of getting the youth program "off the ground". Robbins, assisted by Tom Ochs, organized a sailing and racing program for the juniors. By 1979 the sailing program flourished with El Toros, Lasers and Toppers available for the Tuesday evening sailing classes. Holly Fuerstenberg and Monica Sweitzer each served several terms as president of the juniors. In 1982 under Monica Sweitzer's leadership, tickets were sold for a color television as the prize in a fund raiser. The juniors were active in the racing circuit with Jimmy Coburn and Mike McConnell as the hot racers. Adult advisors in recent years include: Vern Coburn, Margot MacKerrow, Bruce Oelschlager, Tim Donovan, Howard Gilbert, and Kay Scherzinger.

The Midget Ocean Racing Association (MORA) has attracted VYC members. Horace MacKerrow first raced in MORA in 1968 in his Columbia 30, "Osibisa". He participated in the MORA San Diego Race in August 1973 and again in 1974. MacKerrow was commodore of MORA in 1974 at the same time he was vice commodore of Vallejo Yacht Club. In 1973 four Vallejo Yacht Club boats, "Osibisa", "Unicorn", "Si Bon", and "Robanray" raced



Christy Huddle, VYC's first female regular member and Susan Lane, its first female "Fleet Captain Sail".

MORA. In 1974 "Osibisa" and "Unicorn" took eight trophies between them. Former VYC member Franz Klitzka who now races under the Richmond Yacht Club banner has been a consistent winner on the MORA circuit.

Probably the biggest win by a Vallejo Yacht Club member occurred on August 1, 1975, when Jim Bonovich in "Ce Ce Bon" won the Sir Thomas Lipton Challenge Trophy by defeating "Molly B" (SFYC) and "Gamma" (STFYC).

Gary Cicerello won the Columbia 26 National Championship Series in "Outrageous" on July 19-20, 1975, with the races held in San Pablo Bay and jointly conducted by the Columbia 26 Association and VYC.

Wednesday night club races are a very popular activity with over thirty boats in three classes participating. On a windy Wednesday it is still hard to beat Art Krause, at the age of 78 in "Sea Spinster", or to beat George Van Dolson anytime. New design boats with the latest equipment and sails keep the competition tough.

A discussion of sailboat racing would not be complete without mentioning women's racing. A "powder puff" race for women was held in 1956. In 1973, Margot MacKerrow organized "The First Annual Powder Puff Race". Women's races have been held at various times since then. Barbara Owens is currently the VYC representative to the Women's Racing Association which was established in 1984.

Social events have always been an important part of the yachting scene. Early accounts of Vallejo Yacht Club social activities have included "smokers", picnics, banquets, and cruises. Although club meetings and "smokers" were for the male members only, the other events usually included the ladies. The most popular annual events through the years have been the New Year's party, crab feed, Jigg's dinner, Opening Day, the YRA Race, Fourth of July lighted boat parade, Halloween party, the racing awards dinner, and the Change of Command dinner. Two events for the children each year are the children's Christmas party and the Easter egg hunt. The children's Christmas party was started by Angelo Rega, a bachelor, 1935. He supported it financially and when he died his will specified that his boat be sold and the proceeds go to the Christmas party.

The major social event of 1975 was the "Dia-



Clarence "Red" Fox cut the ribbon at the dedication of the new VYC clubhouse on February 22, 1969. Bert Ryan (left) and Bill Jeffries assisted.

mond Jubilee" celebrating the Vallejo Yacht Club's first 75 years. The two-day event on August 23 and 24, 1975, featured a banquet with Congressman Robert Leggett as featured speaker, a special printed program which included a brief history of the club, an open house on Sunday, and El Toro and Hobie Cat races. Bill Hanley was general chairman, Wyman Riley was master of ceremonies and Commodore Horace MacKerrow was responsible for the honored guests.

Early day Fourth of July celebrations included decorating the clubhouse with bunting, boat races, and incoming cruises. The lighted boat parade became a tradition in the late 1930s. In recent years prizes for the lighted boat parade contest have been furnished by the city of Vallejo. The parade was followed by fireworks over the Mare Island Channel. Joe Schlosser on "Humu II" was the winner on several occasions when he borrowed some marines from Mare Island who were dressed in Revolutionary War uniforms, or on another occasion as marines raising the flag at Iwo Jima. Al Richardson on "Sea Dancer" specialized in animated characters such as Yankee Doodle Dandy.

The Jigg's dinner in March each year featured the corned beef and cabbage cooked by Dick Jensen. Dinner was followed by the "Irish Sweepstakes" featuring beautiful female jockeys riding wooden horses as they advanced down the track according to the throw of the dice.

The first stirrings about a need to replace the old clubhouse occurred in 1961. The Vallejo Redevelopment Agency was authorized to purchase and remove the clubhouse as part of a major downtown redevelopment project. Nothing happened until 1965 when at the January 25, 1965, meeting club members voted overwhelmingly to launch the reconstruction project which included a new clubhouse, ways, parking, landscaping, and other harbor improvements. In June 1965 Commodore Dr. Bob Frank signed over the deed to the old clubhouse and a check for \$50,000 from the Redevelopment Agency was placed in escrow. On October 15, 1966, a "kick-off" dinner was held in the old clubhouse boat shed and the new clubhouse project was under way. Vice Commodore Dr. George Halterman had prepared a printed seven-page report which gave a brief history of the old clubhouse and the architect's sketch of the proposed building. The estimated cost of the new clubhouse was \$123,000. Financing, over and above the \$50,000 received from the Redevelopment Agency, was to come from the sale of promissory notes to members. The notes were in the amount of \$50 each with interest at 5 per cent repayable starting in 1969. A bank loan provided the needed remainder after a second plea to members for additional funds to cover a \$32,000 shortfall. Ground breaking ceremonies were held on March 19, 1967. Jack Hough was master of ceremonies with architect Bill Jefferies, Al Newman, and Commodore Hal Roemnick participating. Red Fox was delegated as the club's construction supervisor. Contractor Emil Meyers began the task of building by driving 90 piles. One thou-



The old VYC clubhouse in 1967. Photograph by Ed Wartburg, Sr.

sand linear ft. of 12' x 16" girders were bolted to them; 6,000 lbs. of steel and 30,000 board feet of decking were laid to form the base for the building.

The first event to be held in the new building was the New Year's party of December 31, 1967, which featured a ham and turkey buffet for the price of \$6.00 per person. The official move into the clubhouse was in February 1968, and the old clubhouse was demolished shortly thereafter. Among the items taken from the old clubhouse for use in the new facility was the bar which was modified several times and used until 1987. The fine hardwood flooring from the old dance floor was installed in the new clubhouse main room. Dedication ceremonies for the new clubhouse were not conducted until February 22, 1969, with a steak dinner and dance following the dedication. The promissory notes and the bank loan were paid off and a gala mortgage-burning party was held on December 2, 1978. Upgrading and redecorating have periodically taken place. A major expansion of the bar area was accomplished in 1987.

The history of the Vallejo Yacht Club provides a glimpse at the ever changing scene of

the water-oriented community of Vallejo and of the San Francisco Bay area as it relates to yachting and recreational boating. As a resource for yachting history the Vallejo Yacht Club has one of the few extensive collections of records, photographs and other materials in its archives. An ongoing committee is recording and storing these materials as they become available. A pictorial history of the Vallejo Yacht Club is available as a twenty-five minute slide show.



Two corrections have been received to the first part of this article. On page 14 of our Dec. 1987 issue the date for the Pacific Inter-club Yachting Association formation should be 1896. Then on page 20 of the same issue the statement that the 211th Artillery installed and maintained the barrage balloons is not correct. The 211th was an anti-aircraft Artillery unit which had guns for air raid protection of Mare Island. The barrage balloons were operated by the 309th Barrage Battalion which came from Camp Tyson, Tenn. in mid 1942.

Granville Swift, Pioneer

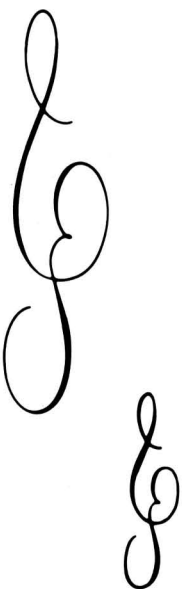
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1. The genealogical information presented here is derived from research by Sharon Peart of Benicia and Mary Higham of Suisun Valley. Kenneth Clark of Wooden Valley, great grandson of Granville Swift has kindly made available photographs of the Swift family and Temelec. Robert Allen of Vacaville has made prints for this article.
2. A vivid depiction of Daniel Boone's career and the nature of the early frontier experience of Swift's forebears is found in *The Frontiersmen* by the Editors of Time-Life Books (Chicago: 1980).
3. Hubert H. Bancroft, *History of California*, Volume 5, "Pioneer Register and Index," p. 741.
4. See Fred B. Rogers, "Bear Flag Lieutenant: The Life Story of Henry L. Ford (1822-1860)," *California Historical Society Quarterly*, Vol. 30, No. 1 (March 1951), pp. 49-66, 157-175.
5. William A. Streeter, "Recollections of Historical Events in California," 1843-1878, *California Historical Society Quarterly*, Vol. 18, No. 1 (March 1939), pp. 157-158.
6. Richard Dillon, *Fool's Gold; A Biography of John Sutter* (New York: Coward-McCann, 1967) pp. 231-232.
7. George Tays, "Reconstruction of the Bear Flag Seizure of Sonoma," *California Historical Society Quarterly*, Vol. 17, No. 1 (March 1938), pp. 219-223.
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9. Fred Rogers, *op. cit.*, pp. 54-55.
10. James Clyman, "Diaries," *California Historical Society Quarterly*, Vol. 5, No. 1 (March 1926), p. 257.
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12. Walton Bean and James Rawls, *California, An Interpretive History*, 4th edition (San Francisco: McGraw-Hill, 1983), p. 88.
13. Robert Heizer, *The Destruction of the California Indians, 1847-1865*. (Santa Barbara, Calif: Peregrine Smith, 1974), p. 219 and Ben and Rawls, *op. cit.*, p. 142.
14. Lillian M. Wilson, *Temelec Hall Saga* (Sonoma: Lillian M. Wilson, 1967), p. 9.
15. Hubert H. Bancroft, *ibid.* Jones family papers in possession of Fred Jones, Suisun Valley, California. On at least one occasion an employee uncovered and stole a buried cache. This theft was later detected and the culprit convicted and imprisoned.
16. The 1860 U.S. Census of Sonoma lists Granville Swift as "farmer," age 36, with real estate valued at \$100,000 and his personal property at another \$100,000. By comparison the entry for "M.G. Vallejo, 51, Gentleman," is \$200,000 and \$50,000; and for "A. Harazthy, 48, Winemaker," it is \$200,000 and \$50,000 for real estate and personal property respectively.
17. The 1860 U.S. Census of Sonoma Township, sheet 90. By comparison this census lists 13 Indians living at the "M.G. Vallejo Place," in Sonoma City, ages 4 to 40 years.
18. Robert Heizer, *op. cit.*, Chapter 6 "Indenture, Kidnapping and Sale of Indians," pp. 219-242, and Walton Bean and James Rawls, *op. cit.*, p. 142.
19. Lillian W. Wilson, *op. cit.*, p. 14.
20. *Ibid.*
21. *Solano County Deeds, Records of Grantees 1853-1872*; Book S, p. 491; Book T, p. 484; Book M, p. 409. The deed from Granville to his sister Mary is in Book A1, p. 529.
22. Solano County Probate Court, Case No. 420, Estate and Guardianship of Granville P. Swift, Jr. and William T. Swift, Minors; and Case No. 417, Estate of Granville P. Swift, April 27, 1975.
23. Probate Court Cases No. 420 and No. 417 cited above.
24. W.F. Wallace, *History of Napa County* (Oakland, Calif., 1901), p. 349. Typical of the variations in factual accounts of Granville Swift's record which occur in all phases of his biography is the differing acreage for his Zem Zem operation given in this entry in The Napa County Abstract, 1878, with Supplements; Giving Every Real-Estate Owner of the County, Value of Real-Estate and Improvements, Together with the Mortgages on the Same (Abstract Publishing Co., San Francisco, 1878), p. 93, which reads: "Swift, G.P. (Estate of), 2,120 acres, valuation \$2,867, improvements \$120. Knoxville." The low value of the land and improvements does not imply a profitable mining enterprise during Granville Swift's lifetime! I am indebted to Kenneth Clark, mentioned above, for this citation.
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7. *Ibid.*, p. 114.
8. Christie, Anthony, *Chinese Mythology*, pp. 110-113.
9. Werner, Edward T.C., *op. cit.*, pp. 251-253.
10. Dr. Eve Armentrout Ma interview by Marilyn Baldwin, Dec. 1986. Dr. Ma related information about a statue found in a rock fence by a rancher in Napa. Others have told me about finding Guin Yin in wine caves in Napa.
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12. *Vacaville Reporter*, Aug. 2, 1884 and Feb. 28, 1885.
13. Limbaugh, *op. cit.*, p. 219.
14. An explanation of joss sticks can be found in the oral interview, Limbaugh, The Chinese in Vacaville, p. 46. Dr. C.K. Lieu, Professor of Chinese History, Davis, California, gave me an in-depth description of joss sticks and divination blocks. Information of these can also be found in S. Wells Williams, *The Middle Kingdom*, Vol. #1, Charles Scribner & Son, 1883.
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17. Holmes, Welch, *Taoism, The Parting of the Way*, p. 133. Loew, Michael, & Blackes, Carmen, *Divination Oracles*, pp. 52-53.
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Chinese Temple in Vacaville

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